Heart to Heart

Newsletter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Luton
Diocese of Northampton, Deanery of St Alban
Registered Charity Number: 234091

YEAR A – Sunday 22nd February 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Psalter Week 1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Allan R. Jones, CRIC, M.A., MTh.
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan (On Sabbatical)
Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted

Address: 148 Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds., LU2 9AY
Parish Office: parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
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Safeguarding: safeguarding.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Free Redundancy Coaching Info: www.vitaeopus.co.uk

Parish Info: www.sacredheartluton.org
Diocesan Info: www.northamptondiocese.org
Pastoral Area Info: www.lutonpastoralarea.org

Parish Office: 01582 723099
Sacred Heart Primary School: 01582 287480
Cardinal Newman School: 01582 597125
L&D Hospital Chaplain: 01582 497370
Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

Saturday 21st February	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Michael Naughton RIP	
Sunday 22nd February **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Monica McIntyre RIP **Rite of Election**, Northampton Cathedral	**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**
Monday 23rd February	9.30am	Healing (Private Intention)	
Tuesday 24th February	**8.30am** **9.00am** **SACRED HEART 10.00am**	Morning Prayer Holy Souls **FUNERAL SERVICE: MARY ELIZABETH PLUMMER**	
Wednesday 25th February	9.30am	Holy Souls	
Thursday 26th February **PARISH HALL**	9.30am **THE VALE 10.30am** **10am-12 Noon**	Elizabeth 'Betty' Blake RIP (4th Anniversary) **FUNERAL SERVICE: BERNARD CHRISTOPHER CSERI** **THURSDAY CLUB**	
Friday 27th February	**6.30pm** **7.00pm** **Following 7pm Mass**	Evening Prayer Willie O'Keefe RIP **Stations of the Cross** **Confessions**	**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**
Saturday 28th February	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions	
Sunday 1st March **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

PARISH HALL: Open after the Sunday 11.00am Mass for teas and coffees. All welcome!

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm every Saturday, or by appointment. Confessions also available after Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8.50am followed by Rosary. Tuesday at 8.30am – All welcome.
EVENING PRAYER: Friday 6.30pm (During Lent).

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY: For children with incurable diseases
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent there will be the opportunity to attend Stations of the Cross each Friday. **There will be no Friday morning 9.30am Mass except on Friday 6th March (KS2 Sacred Heart Primary School attending).**
Mass throughout Lent at 7.00pm each Friday followed by Stations of the Cross. All welcome to attend.

POPE LEO XIV – MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026: Pope Leo XIV presents Lent as a renewed time of conversion centred on listening and fasting. He calls the Church to deeper attentiveness to the Word of God and to the cry of the poor, reminding us that true listening forms compassionate and discerning hearts. Fasting, he teaches, orders our desires and must be lived with humility and rooted in the Word, not as mere external discipline. Of particular pastoral relevance is his invitation to fast from words that wound, urging us to "disarm our language" and foster speech that builds communion.
Lent, the Holy Father concludes, is a shared ecclesial journey in which renewed listening and fasting can transform our relationships and communities as we move towards Easter.
Read the message here:
https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html

RIP: Please remember Maureen O'Dwyer, Mary Plummer, Bernard Cseri, Carol Ziccardi, Joanne Nolan, Katie Synan and Gloria Keegan (wife of John Keegan) who died recently. Please keep Maureen, Mary, Bernard, Carol, Joanne, Katie and Gloria in your prayers and keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: Mary Elizabeth Plummer RIP; Funeral Service Tuesday 24th February 10.00am at Sacred Heart Church.
Bernard Christopher Cseri, Funeral Service 10.30am Cedar Chapel, The Vale, Luton.
Carol Ziccardi RIP, Funeral Thursday 12th March 10.45am at Sacred Heart Church.

MASS INTENTIONS: Mass intentions moved for unforeseen reasons (e.g. funerals) will be honoured on another day. Please provide contact details when requesting intentions and check the weekly newsletters.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: If you wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or to ask for a relative/friend then please contact Fr Allan or telephone/email the Parish Office.

BETHANY MASS: Thank you to all who attended the Bethany Mass last weekend. A special thank you to Canon Kevin O'Driscoll for presiding.

LUTON FOODBANK: This Lent, Luton Foodbank, invite Sacred Heart Parishioners to turn a season of reflection into a season of action. As shown in their Lent Challenge poster (Parish Noticeboard), there are two simple ways you can help Luton Foodbank to support local families in need:
The Daily Gift: Donate £1 or one non-perishable food item for each day of Lent.
The Collection: Once you've completed your challenge, simply drop your donations off at Sacred Heart Church.
"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." — Matthew 25:35.

Every tin of soup, bag of pasta, or pound donated ensures that no-one in Luton should be hungry. Luton Foodbank thanks Sacred Heart community for your continued kindness and for making this Lent a meaningful one for our whole town.

THURSDAY CLUB: Please note Thursday Club reopens on **Thursday 26th February**. Please contact anyone that you may feel would benefit from attending the Thursday Club and extend a warm welcome to come along to Sacred Heart's Parish Hall to have a chat and a cup of tea - **Thursday 10.00am-12 Noon**. All welcome!

PARISHIONERS: There are many parishioners who are unwell at the moment, both at home and in hospital. The Church is not always notified. Please let the Parish Office know if you are aware of a parishioner who is unwell (name/address/telephone number or family contact details).

LITURGY OF THE WORD ZOOM SESSIONS FOR 2026: The God Who Speaks – Our Liturgy of the Word:
A series of online Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. Led by the Liturgical Formation Team.
Future sessions in 2026: Wednesday 8th April, Wednesday 8th July, Wednesday 9th September, Wednesday 11th November.
Each session runs from 7.30pm-8.30pm Cost: No charge but there will be the opportunity to make a donation. Please register in advance to secure a place by emailing
deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org **Full details on Poster displayed on the Noticeboard.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION: If you wish to have your child baptised at Sacred Heart Church a Baptism Preparation Class must be undertaken before Baptism can go ahead. Please contact the Parish Office to discuss further and to book your place. Baptism Preparation Classes for 2026 will take place on **Thursday 5th March at 7.00pm, Thursday 4th June at 7.00pm and Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm.** Please make sure you have registered as a parishioner with the Parish through the CASPAR link.

LENTEN PROJECT: The Lenten Project at Sacred Heart of Jesus for 2026 will be for a 'Bleed Kit Cabinet' to be installed. This will be of benefit to the wider Stopsley community.

NATIONAL BOARD OF CATHOLIC WOMEN: Dr Phyllis Zagano, world expert on the role of women in the Catholic Church, will be joining the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) on **Thursday 26th February online at 6.30pm, for a conversation entitled: The Synod and Women: Which Way to the Future?**
Dr Zagano joins the NBCW (a consultative body to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales) at the beginning of an exciting year of innovative engagement with Catholic women.
To register and find out more, please visit: **https://www.nbcw.co.uk**

CAFOD LENT APPEAL – FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY: This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. **Collect a CAFOD envelope, available in the Foyer,** to bless others with your support, donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope** or call 0303 303 3030.

Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10, or scan QR Code:

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection **at all Masses next weekend 28th February, 1st March in aid of FAMILY FAST DAY.**

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT: 28th February 10.00am-1.00pm on Zoom: "JESUS – NO GREATER LOVE"
What is our relationship with Jesus, the source of eternal love? Mini retreat morning including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and an inspiring talk from guest speaker Charles Whitehead KSG, celebrated international renewal leader, speaker, and author.
Register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2026 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

HEALING SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL: Saturday 28th February, 7.30pm. Maybe consider inviting a friend! They might not even be interested in Church, but often people are open to the idea of receiving healing! All welcome. See Poster on the Noticeboard.

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - FURTHER ACTION NEEDED! Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords.
Please visit **www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026** to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

PROPERTY AREA CO-ORDINATORS – VACANCIES: Northampton Diocese is currently recruiting three Property Area Coordinators, each responsible for the maintenance, compliance, and performance of a defined portfolio of properties within an allocated geographic area of the Diocese. The role ensures that buildings are safe, legally compliant, well maintained, and fit for mission and ministry, while providing support to parishes, clergy, and diocesan stakeholders.
This is a full-time, 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possibility of extension or becoming permanent. As each role covers a different part of the Diocese, three area-specific Job Descriptions are available, and candidates should review the one relevant to their preferred location.
The closing date for applications is Friday 7th March 2026. Interview dates will be confirmed in due course; however, Northampton Diocese reserves the right to close the advert early should a sufficient number of applications be received. Full information and an application form can be found by visiting **https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs** All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form and email it to: **hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org**

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Wesley Weekes will be distributing new envelopes for the 2026 financial year before and after each Mass on the following weekends: **W/E 8th March; W/E 15th March; W/E 22nd March; W/E 29th March.** If you are new to the Parish and/or wish to make your weekly donations using envelopes then please contact Wesley on 01582 738569. Thank you.

IRISH FORUM: Looking for **Volunteers to support events on 7th, 8th, 14th and 17th March**. There are a range of roles and would love to hear from you or anyone you know who can help.
Please call 01582 720447 or email **info@lutonirishforum.org**

CONGRATULATIONS: To Dr Chris Nwufo who received his Doctorate recently from the University of Hertfordshire. Well done!

COME AND SEE – DISCERNMENT DAY FOR MEN: Are you a man who is wondering whether God may be calling you to the priesthood? The Diocese warmly invites you to "Come and See" — a day of prayer, reflection, and questions for men who are thinking about or discerning a vocation to the priesthood. **Date: Saturday 28th March, 2026: Programme: A day including prayer, reflection, input on priestly vocation, and an open Q&A. Who is it for? Men who are exploring, questioning, or discerning a call to the priesthood. Where? Our Lady of Christian and St Lawrence, Olney.**
This day offers a relaxed and supportive opportunity to reflect on God's call, to learn more about priestly life, and to ask honest questions in a prayerful setting. **To register your interest or for more information, please contact: Fr Pius: vocationsdirector@northamptondiocese.org Tel:** 01753 523147

CSSA THEMATIC INSPECTION: SURVIVOR ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT: The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) has launched a public survey as part of its thematic inspection on survivor engagement and support. Victims and survivors of abuse—whether recent or historic—are invited to share their experiences of contact with dioceses and Religious Life Groups.
In Northampton, we continue to walk alongside survivors through initiatives such as the Healing Garden at Northampton Cathedral. Survivors are encouraged to participate in the survey, helping shape a safer Church for all. Visit:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SSQzRY2fT0OpJmB_Xy63KLBEXoG2tlVAm_9UYqKjMSFUOTc5TzlLTEdTWkUySjhaTlU0QURaOU05SC4u

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE: The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales.
The experience will run from 21st-26th June in London. Candidates must be aged 18–25 years; priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Poster on Noticeboard. Applications close on 6th April. For any queries, please contact **KeziaH@svp.org.uk**

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 15.02.2026: Envelopes £577.50; Loose Cash £286.06; Total £863.56 Thank you. Many parishioners give faithfully through the offertory collection each week. Did you know that if you are a UK taxpayer, your gift could be worth 25% more at no extra cost to you? Through Gift Aid, a donation of £10 becomes £12.50 — and we can even reclaim up to four years of past donations. Signing up is simple, confidential, and makes a big difference to parish life. Find out more at: **https://northamptondiocese.org/gift-aid/**

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frank Garlick 2006; Frank Robinson 2008; Olivia-Grace Oizamisi Otim-Obaro 2020; John Hand 1994; Monica McIntyre 2018; Michael Foley 2007; Margaret Riley 1964; Sidney Jay 1981; Michael Early 1968; Mary Hancock 1994; Lawrence Foley 1997; James Byrne 1997; Mary Shiels 2023; Peter Joseph Farrell 2020; Laszlo Szaher 1984; Mary Moughan 2003; Alice Jones 2005; Anna (Ann) Davern 2014; Elizabeth Bridget Blake 2022; Mary Theramise Edmunds 2023; Eugene Aloysius O'Hara 2018; Walter Ryan 1974; Frank Colley 1981 ✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen**

PARISH REGISTRATION: To complete your parish registration, please use the QR code at the top of the Newsletter on the right, or go to **www.caspar.church/me?ID=56040**, or contact the parish office for assistance.
If you do not have an email address then please pick up a form in the Foyer to give your authority for the Parish Office to register you. Please remember to include the following information on the back of the form: Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone Number (if applicable)