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 23rd August 2026
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Psalter Week 1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.**

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
Parish Hall: hallbookings.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
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 22nd August	5.45pm 600pm-6.20pm **6.30pm MASS**	Evening Prayer Confession Vicente Mendenilla & Cherry Mendenilla RIP	**The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Sunday 23rd August	8.30am **9.00am MASS** **11.00am MASS**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Michael DeSouza (Birthday)	**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Monday 24th August			**ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**
Tuesday 25th August			
Wednesday 26th August			
Thursday 27th August			**St Monica**
Friday 28th August			**St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
Saturday 29th August	5.45pm 600pm-6.20pm **6.30pm MASS**	Evening Prayer Confession Ryan Family Deceased Members RIP	**The Passion of St John the Baptist**
Sunday 30th August	8.30am **9.00am MASS** **11.00am MASS**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Lakshini Perera (Birthday)	**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

PARISH HALL: The Parish Hall will **reopen on Sunday 6th September** for teas/coffees after the 11.00am Mass. Volunteers always welcome – contact the Parish Office or speak to Wes and/or Judy if you are able to help.

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm every Saturday, or by appointment.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: For evangelization in the city
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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.

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.

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).

THURSDAY CLUB: Reopens on Thursday 3rd September, 10.00am-12 Noon.

RIP: Please remember in your prayers Thomas Davitt who died recently. Please keep Thomas, his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 16.08.26 Envelopes £747.20; Loose Cash £290.76; Total £1037.96 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/**

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

ST AUGUSTINE - PATRON OF THE CANONS REGULAR: Please keep Fr Allan and his fellow Canons Regular of St Augustine in your prayers as they celebrate the solemnity of their spiritual father St Augustine. Thursday marks Fr Allan's twentieth anniversary since being clothed in the habit as a novice.

HYMN BOOKS: Thank you to all who donated money towards dedications. The Dedications are now being prepared. **There will be a blessing of the new Hymn Books in September at the 9.00am Mass on Sunday 20th September.** The new hymn books will be available to use the following weekend Sunday 27th September.

The old hymn books will be in the Parish Hall after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 27th September. If an old hymn book has a dedication to a loved one in your family, you are very welcome to look through the hymn books to locate your chosen hymn book(s) please feel free to take the old hymn book(s) home.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: 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. The **FINAL Baptism Preparation Class for 2026** will take place on **Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm** in the Church. Please register with the Parish through the CASPAR link.

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS – EXPLORING THE CATHOLIC FAITH: If you are an adult and are not a Catholic, then this is your opportunity to explore the Catholic faith with no commitment. There may be others who have been baptised, and you are more than welcome to join the course and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Easter. Please contact the parish office and if there are enough people interested, we will begin our journey together in September.

MARY'S MEALS FOREIGN CURRENCY COLLECTION: Mary's Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency* no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put all your foreign coins/notes aside**; we will be collecting all your foreign currency in September (final date for collection 19th/20th September)** with special Mary's Meals envelopes available in the Foyer.

Currently the charity feeds over 3 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child.
***Mary's Meals will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender**

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 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.**

BIBLE STUDY: Thursday 10th September 2026 – Can Catholics believe in Evolution? Speaker: Mr Anthony Nevard, Editor of Daylight Origins Society. **Our Lady Help of Christians, Castle Street, Luton, LU1 3AG. 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Everyone welcome.**

***REGISTRATION 2026 FOR SACRAMENTS IN SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH IN 2027:**

FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
CONFIRMATION

Registration for First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion (Year 3 and above in September 2026) and for Confirmation (Year 8 and above in September 2026) is through the Parish only
REGISTRATION OPENED ON SUNDAY 15th AUGUST AND WILL CLOSE ON SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2026.
Please make sure you have registered as a parishioner with the Parish through the CASPAR link.

Please complete a form (available in the Foyer) and email to the Parish Secretary (Bernadette).
parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org

Please include a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate.

Please check you have registered your child for the correct Sacrament. The responsibility for this lies with you as parents/guardians/carers alone. **No applications to register for the Sacraments will be accepted after the closing date 27th September 2026. Once registered you will receive an acknowledgement email.**

LUTON COUNCIL OF FAITHS – PEACE WALK 2026: Saturday 26th September 2026
1.15pm start – St Mary's Church – 30th Annual Peace Walk: A public demonstration of community solidarity to build a stronger Luton by fostering understanding and friendship. For more information contact: **info@lutonfaiths.org** See Poster on the Noticeboard.

FAMILY DAY: Sunday 27th September, Holy Ghost Parish Centre, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD, **2:15pm–6:00pm** Free entry – booking required
Booking: https://sioncommunity.churchsuite.com/events/no5fkk9f
This will be an opportunity for families from across the pastoral area to come together, meet one another and be encouraged in their faith. (See Posters on the Noticeboard.)

FAITH ART PRIZE 2026: Artists of all background are invited to submit work to The Faith Art Prize, where they could share in a total prize fund of £30,000. The international competition, formerly known as the Laudamus Award, explores faith, devotion and spirituality. **The deadline is 5pm on 1st October**, and the entry fee is £15 for one piece of work, £25 for two, or £35 for three. Up to 100 shortlisted works will be exhibited at Westminster Cathedral in London from 9th-13th November. You can find out more and enter, at **https://artopps.co.uk/opportunities/thefaithartprize**

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026: TEA DANCE AFTERNOON – SACRED HEART PARISH HALL
Please mark your diary and watch out for more information to follow.

PARISH REGISTRATION AND THE SACRAMENTS: In order to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation), to marry within the parish, to have a form or letter endorsed by the parish priest, including certificates of Catholic practice, etc, you should live in the parish or attend Mass here regularly and be registered on the CASPAR system as a parishioner. You do not need to be a registered parishioner to receive the sacrament of the sick, Viaticum (last rites) or have a funeral at Sacred Heart or a Catholic funeral at the Vale.

ANCIENT BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY COURSE, 12th-18th OCTOBER 2026: A seven-day course writing an icon in the ancient Byzantine style, using the liquid egg tempera technique. The course leads the student through each step of writing an icon of their own, providing theological explanations and practical demonstrations. Our October course is for those with some experience: please register your interest for an opportunity to book onto the next novice course.
https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/ancient-byzantine-iconography-course/

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ann Finch 1967; Maria Dove 2023; Angela McCarthy 2020; Alice Norris 1956; Elizabeth Shanley 1963; Rosaline Norris 1968; Lillian Hunt 1988; James Wilson 2011; John McGeoghan 1994; Catherine Prickett 1997; Hugh Parks 2006; Sarah Fursman 2009; Martha Dempsey 1971; Baby Tracy Ann Wheeler 1971; Elise Celine 1972; Kathleen Callaghan 1980; Annie McLaughlin 2010; James Sherry 2014; Ronald West 1983; John Gemmell 1988; Frances Godfrey 1996; Patrick Begley 2005 ✠ **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).