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 20th September 2026
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY
Psalter Week 1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**The Lord is close to all who call him.**

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 19th September	5.45pm 600pm-6.20pm **6.30pm MASS**	Evening Prayer Confession Michael King & Family RIP	**Annual Parish Mass Count Week 1**
Sunday 20th September **PARISH HALL**	8.30am **9.00am MASS** **11.00am MASS** **Teas and Coffees** **3.00pm MASS**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Blessing of the New Hymn Books Frank Hurley RIP (17th Anniversary) **Bethany Mass**	**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Monday 21st September	**9.30am MASS**	Joyce Horne (Birthday Intention)	**ST MATTHEW, Apostle**
Tuesday 22nd September	**9.30am MASS**	Prayer Group: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond	
Wednesday 23rd September **PARISH HALL**	**9.30am MASS** **7.00pm-9.00pm**	Deceased Members of the Lucas Family RIP Youth Strategy Meeting	**St Pius of Petrelcina, Priest**
Thursday 24th September **PARISH HALL**	**9.30am MASS** **10.00am-12 Noon** **1.30pm**	**Year 6 SH Primary Mass** **THURSDAY CLUB** **REQUIEM: THOMAS DAVITT**	**OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**
Friday 25th September	**9.30am MASS**	Deceased Canons Regular	
Saturday 26th September	**6.30pm MASS**	Erik & Maureen Kerr (Intentions)	
Sunday 27th September **PARISH HALL**	**9.00am MASS** **11.00am MASS** **Teas and Coffees**	Private Intention (Healing) People of Our Parish	**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **Annual Parish Mass Count Week 2**

PARISH HALL: The Parish Hall is open this Sunday after the 11.00am Mass for teas and coffees. All welcome!

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm on Saturday, or by appointment. Please note there will be no Confessions on Saturday 26th September.

MORNING PRAYER: 9.00am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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.

ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT: This weekend is the FIRST week of four Annual Parish Mass Counts. Can Counters please pick up a Count Sheet from the Foyer and record numbers accordingly for each Mass. Please also remember to include musicians and choir members in the Loft. Once the count has been completed and signed by each Counter, the sheets should be posted through the Parish Office letterbox. Thank you.

BETHANY MASS: This weekend **20th September at Sacred Heart at 3.00pm**. All welcome! Tea will be served in the Parish Hall after Mass.

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: Thursday 10.00am-12 Noon. 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. All welcome!

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.
FUNERAL DETAILS: Thomas Davitt RIP, Requiem 1.30pm at Sacred Heart on **Thursday 24th September**.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 13.09.26 Envelopes £749.67; Loose Cash £359.49; Total £1109.16 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

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.

XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES APPEAL & SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend 26th/27th September, Sacred Heart has the pleasure of welcoming Fr Sowa to the Parish. Fr Sowa will be presiding over all Masses. He will be making a Mission Appeal on behalf of the Xaverian Missionaries. There will be a second collection at all Masses for the Xaverian Mission.

CAFOD APPEAL TALK: Next weekend 26th/27th September there will also be an appeal on behalf of CAFOD for **Family Fast Day – Friday 2nd October.** A **second collection will take place over the weekend of Saturday 3rd/4th October**. Family Fast Day is a day when we are invited to pray, eat simply and give generously. By giving to CAFOD this Harvest we can put our faith into action and share God's love with our neighbours overseas. Please collect a CAFOD envelope (available in the Foyer) as you leave Church today, so that you can gift aid your donation or give through the CAFOD website. Please return your envelope for next weekend's Second Collection, or donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope** or call 0303 303 3030. Thank you to Geraldine and Bozena for being the representatives of this Parish for CAFOD.

HYMN BOOKS: Thank you to all who donated money towards dedications. **There will be a blessing of the new Hymn Books at the 9.00am Mass this Sunday 20th September.** The new hymn books will be available to use next weekend Sunday 27th September. **The old hymn books will be in the Parish Hall after the 11.00am Mass next Sunday 27th September.** If you wish to take home an old hymn book which has a dedication to a loved one in your family then please feel free to look through the old hymn books to locate your chosen book(s).

SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE 2026: Invitation to attend Safeguarding Conference **on 3rd October 2026 at St Thomas' Centre at Northampton Cathedral.** To book your place please email Laura.lester@northamptondiocese.org See Poster on the Noticeboard for further information.

MARY'S MEALS FOREIGN CURRENCY COLLECTION: Please note this is the final date for donating - 19th/20th September. Please place your filled envelope in the Box in the Foyer. ***Mary's Meals will also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender.**

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend 19th/20th September there will be a Second Collection at all Masses in aid of Home Mission Sunday.
Those with long memories will be familiar with Home Mission Sunday. It is the name given to the day we ask our parishes to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection. A few years ago, this day was re-named Evangelii Gaudium Sunday after Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation 'The Joy of the Gospel'. Now, in 2026, we revert to using the original name. On Home Mission Sunday the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful across our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Resources, prayers and more can be found in our special section.

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. The final Session in 2026 will take place on **Wednesday 11th November.** 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.**

***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!**
Next weekend 26th/27th September is the final chance to register. REGISTRATION 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.

FAMILY DAY: Sunday 27th September, Holy Ghost Parish Centre, 33 Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD, **2:15pm–6:00pm** Free entry – booking required
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.)

PRICE INCREASE – CANDLES: Please note as from the 1st October the cost of Votive Candles will be increased due to rising supply costs – 60p per candle or £1 for 2 candles.

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR – 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST FRANCIS: Italian Mass to honour St Francis of Assisi with the blessing of animals. **Holy Ghost Catholic Church**, Luton, LU4 8JD – **Sunday 4th October 2026 at 2.30pm.** All welcome! (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026:
If you are a parent or grandparent of a student currently in Year 6, you are warmly invited to Cardinal Newman School on Thursday 1st October.
On the evening, you will hear a talk from the Headteacher Mrs Fay and our Head boy and girl.
You will then have the opportunity of a guided tour with either Year 11 prefects or a member of staff.
Our school hall has a maximum capacity and because of this we ask you to book your place via the link below:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cardinal-newman-catholic-school-open-evening-october-2026-tickets-2000464533270?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=

YOUTH STRATEGY FOR LUTON & DUNSTABLE: On Wednesday 23rd September, from 7.00pm-9.00pm at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Luton, invitation to anyone from Luton & Dunstable interested in or currently engaged with youth ministry to meet together for our 2nd Youth Strategy meeting.
Within this meeting, we will recap themes that arose from the 1st meeting and build on these, creating concrete plans for the youth in Luton & Dunstable, as well as plan a youth forum so that we can hear from the young people in the town about their thoughts, dreams and visions to embed within the strategy. All welcome.

ST JOHN'S PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENT: St John's Church in Sundon Park is running a fun parish evening to raise funds for local social action work, including the Furniture Bank, the Men's Shed, the development of a community outdoor space and other activities. **The event will be held in the hall at St John's on Friday 25th September, starting at 7:00pm. Tickets are just £3 on the door or call Joe on 07939 190424**. It will be a great night, including a Horse Race event, Bingo, a Raffle, Music, and a fully licensed bar. Everyone is welcome, so please bring friends and family for a great night out in support of a good cause. To make a donation please call or visit **https://donate.mydona.com/holy-family-st-john-luton**

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2027: Do you have a child due to start Reception or Year 7 in September 2027? Would you like to find out more about our Catholic Schools in this area? Use the QR code below to complete a short questionnaire and your preferred school will contact you with more information.

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Nora Ann Sullivan 2017; Josephine (Josie) Flatley 2019; Edith Sweeting 1990; Anthony Davey 1995; Mary Catherine Hannon 2023; Victor Dias 2009; John Perry 1994; Pamela Irene Hennessy 2024; Philomena Veronica Coyne 2022; Jeremiah Coffey 1983; Esther Robinson 1986; Richard Healy 1987; Mary McDonnell 1989; Kenneth Caprani 1996; Frank Hurley 2009; William Sullivan 1980; Mary Theresa Gannon 2012; Mary Dinsey 1981; Gwyneth Devlin 1989; Joannes Benart 1963; John Curry 1986; Julian Vidal 1993; Ronald Byrne 2017; John Joseph Kehoe 2018; Michelino Egidio Spiga 2023; John Gemmell 1961; Eric Marchant 1971; Josef Lajac 1981; Ailsa Billings 1990; Jack McKearney 1993 ✠ **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).