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 4th January 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY
Psalter Week 2

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

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 3rd January	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions People of Our Parish	
Sunday 4th January **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **BAPTISMS**	Morning Prayer Victor Manley RIP George Doherty RIP **Jonah-Jude Samuel Richards** **Asa George Richards** **Alina Chinenye Onwuka**	**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**
Monday 5th January	9.30am	Margaret Foody (Intentions)	
Tuesday 6th January	**9.30am** **7.30pm**	Isobella Daly (Intentions) **PRAYER GROUP**: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond People of Our Parish	**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
Wednesday 7th January	9.30am	Roy Keeble RIP	
Thursday 8th January	9.30am **10.00am-12Noon** **CHURCH - 7.00pm**	Maureen Sherry (Intentions) **THURSDAY CLUB** **Baptism Preparation Class**	
Friday 9th January	9.30am	Bridget (Intentions)	
Saturday 10th January	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Eamon & Mary McGovern RIP	**St Paul of Thebes, the first hermit**
Sunday 11th January	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer Robert 'Bob' McDowell RIP People of Our Parish	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

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 every Saturday or by appointment.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday-Friday 8.50am followed by Rosary – All welcome.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For prayer with the Word of God
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: Tuesday 6th January, a Holy Day of Obligation, is the Feast of the Epiphany; Mass is at 9.30am and there will also be an evening Mass at 7.30pm.

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.

RIP: Please remember Mary Theresa Philomena Enright and Margaret Talbot (Sister to John McDonnell) who died recently. Please keep Mary and Margaret in your prayers and keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: Mary Theresa Philomena Enright, **Requiem Thursday 15th January at 10.00am** at Sacred Heart.

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.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SUNDAY & SACRED HEART PARISH CAROL EVENT: Sunday 21st December 2025
Thank you to all who helped organise these events and to all who attended. Both wonderful Parish social occasions – a very enjoyable time was had by all.

THANK YOU: Fr Allan would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to all for the Christmas cards, gifts and well wishes received. Please be assured that you will all be remembered in his prayers.

THURSDAY CLUB: Reopens on **Thursday 8th January 2026.** Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard in providing this wonderful opportunity to socialise. 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 **every Thursday 10.00am-12 Noon**. All welcome!

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. The next Baptism Preparation Class will take place on **Thursday 8th January at 7.00pm.** Please make sure you have registered as a parishioner with the Parish through the CASPAR link.

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).

NOAH BLUE BINS: Please note NOAH Blue Bins will be available to accept donations at Sacred Heart next weekend **10th/11th January**. Please donate your good quality, preloved items to help others in need.

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 – **next session Wednesday 15th January 2026** – Ordinary Time up to Ash Wednesday.
Future sessions in 2026: Wednesday 11th February, 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 the Poster displayed on the Noticeboard.

BETHANY MASS: Please note there is a change of venue for the next Bethany Mass. Mass will take place at **St Joseph's Church, Gardenia Avenue, Luton LU3 2NS** on **Sunday 18th January 2026 at 3.00pm.** Refreshments in St Joseph's Parish Hall afterwards. All welcome!

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS/DONATIONS: The Christmas Crib Offerings/Donations (for Christmas 2025 until Candlemas 2nd February 2026) will go towards supporting NOAH. Your offering/donation can help NOAH to change a life by providing someone to talk to, clean clothes and something to eat for those facing homelessness.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: If you have any unused or no longer required good quality Christmas decorations then please feel free to donate them to Sacred Heart Church for future use. Items can be handed in to the Parish Office 12th/14th/16th January during Office hours 10.00am-12 Noon. Thank you.

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

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for Christmas collection: 24th/25th December: Envelopes £1201.00; Loose Cash £1577.27; Total: £2778.27 Thank you.
Figures for w/e 28.12.2025: Envelopes £616.75; Loose Cash £292.56; Total £909.31 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/

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: From January 2026 we would like a Rota to be set up with volunteers to make/serve teas/coffees after the Sunday 11.00am Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to gather after Sunday Mass but the facility is not being utilised as it should be. Without more volunteers we cannot continue to offer this service. So please email the Parish Office or speak to Wes if you are able to help out on a regular basis and are happy to have your name put forward to be added on a Rota. **We need more volunteers!**

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026: If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you must apply for a school place **by 15th January 2026. You can apply online at luton.gov.uk/school admissions** (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)
To get an information pack or to ask for further information and advice please contact: Admissions Team, Children, Families and Education Directorate, Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ. Telephone: 01582 548016 or email: **admissions@luton.gov.uk**

RETROUVAILLE: Helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.
Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Gwendoline Hood 1978; Stewart Canney 2002; Roy Hegarty 1961; Con Fallon 2011;
James McLoughlin 1988; Ellen Hayes 1969; Maureen Nolan 1983; Ronald Harvey 1992;
Vincent Thomas Caldwell 2014; Patrick Oliver Toman 2015; Patrick Flynn 1970; Edith Godfrey 1981;
Rita Solomon 1991; Peter O'Donnell 1995; Peter Forde 2009; Patrick (Porick) Conlon 2018;
Lillian Marshall 1991; Edward Ryan 1997; Theresa Wilkinson 2002; Con Hope 2007; Ernest Wood 1973;
Alice Davies 1978; Stephen Kinnane 1979; Alessandro Jovene 1992; Josephine Baily 1993;
Philomena Moroney 2001; Noreen Thompson 2002; Altovina Ruffett 2003; Kathleen McGuinness 2006
✠ **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)