Heart to Heart

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

Year C - Sunday 8th December 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.**

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

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

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

Parish Office: 01582 723099
Sacred Heart Primary School: 01582 287480
Cardinal Newman School: 01582 597125
L&D Hospital Chaplain: 01582 663706
Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

Saturday 7th December	5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Pat Brennan RIP	**St Ambrose Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Sunday 8th December	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am	Morning Prayer Judy & Wesley Weekes (Wedding Anniversary) People of Our Parish	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
Monday 9th December		**No Mass**	**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Principal Patron of the Diocese**
Tuesday 10th December	9.30am	Bill Gear RIP and John Joe Wall RIP	
Wednesday 11th December	9.30am	Bridget Shortt (Intention)	
Thursday 12th December	**10.00am**	**REQUIEM: Walter Leu**	
Friday 13th December	**11.00am**	**REQUIEM: Catherine Philomena O'Reilly**	**St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
Saturday 14th December	5.45pm 6.00pm - 6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Mary Moynihan RIP (1st Anniversary)	**St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church**
Sunday 15th December	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Michael Gear RIP **Bethany Group Mass**	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MASS INTENTIONS: Mass intentions sometimes have to be moved due to unforeseen circumstances, such as funerals. Mass Intentions will be honoured on alternative dates. Please leave a contact number when requesting intentions and check the weekly Newsletter. There will be no 9.30am morning Mass on Monday **9th December**, Thursday **12th December** and Friday **13th December**.

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

RETIREMENT OF FR JAMES: Fr James thanks all parishioners for their friendship over the past 2½ years. This Sunday he will be celebrating Mass with the Pope in St. Peter's and will remember Sacred Heart parish and Luton in that Mass.

DRESSING OF THE PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE: We will be dressing the parish Christmas tree after the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday **11th December**. All pairs of hands are very welcome.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER - FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

DIOCESAN PATRONAL FEAST: The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David at our Cathedral at Noon on **9th December**.

CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE: You are welcome to the school's Carol Service on Monday **9th December** from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. To book a free ticket go to **https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cns-carol-service-tickets-109608367878 9?aff=oddtdtcreator**

40 HOURS DEVOTION: You are invited to a 40 Hours Devotion for the renewal of the Church in Luton on Monday 9th and 10th December at St Joseph's, Gardenia Avenue and Our Lady's, Castle Street. Masses at St. Joseph's Monday 9th December at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Please contact Our Lady's or St. Joseph's to sign up for Adoration.

CHRISTMAS CRIB: The Christmas crib collection this year will go to 'Embrace', a Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. For more information go to Embrace's website **https://embraceme.org/** The crib will be up from around the **16th December** until **2nd February**.

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY: You are invited to share Sacred Heart's Nativity play and reflection by the School's Faith Ambassadors. This will take place in Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday **11th December** at 6.00pm.

RIP: Please remember all who have died recently, especially Walter Leu, Catherine O'Reilly, Nicola Burke, Teresa Hurley, Giuseppe Gristina and Anna Demeter. Please keep them, their families and their friends in your thoughts and prayers.

FORTHCOMING FUNERAL DETAILS:
Walter Leu RIP, REQUIEM - 10.00am Thursday **12th December** - Sacred Heart
Catherine Philomena O'Reilly, REQUIEM - 11.00am on Friday **13th December** - Sacred Heart
Anna Demeter RIP, Graveside Service - 11.15am Monday **16th December** at the Vale.
Giuseppe Gristina RIP, REQUIEM - 10.00am Tuesday **17th December** – Sacred Heart
Kathleen Teresa Hurley RIP, REQUIEM - 11.00am Wednesday **18th December** - Sacred Heart

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SUNDAY: Our annual Christmas Jumper Sunday will be **22nd December** at the 11.00am Mass. Fr Allan will be judging the winning jumper after Mass in the Parish Hall.

NOAH: Please note there will be no Blue Bins available for donations this weekend 7th/8th December. Please do not leave any donations in the Foyer. The next NOAH Donation/Collection at Sacred Heart will be in January.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY: All are invited to attend the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Bedford on **12th December** to celebrate her Feast Day Mass. Rosary at 7.00pm, Mass at 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

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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 email the Parish Office.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY: The consultation period for St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust's proposed updated Primary School Admission Policy for admissions in **September 2026** is open until **31 December 2024.** It affects five local Catholic primary schools: Sacred Heart, St Margaret of Scotland, St Martin de Porres, St Mary's and St Vincent's. Policy details can be found at **https://www.stcat.co.uk/trust-governance/consultation/**. If you want a hard copy or have comments to make regarding the proposed policy, please contact Maxine Gilmartin at **consultation@stcat.co.uk** or by post at St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Pastures Way, Luton, LU4 0PF.

YOUNG CATHOLICS CURRY NIGHT: If you're 18-35 come along to Ashiyana on Birdsfoot Lane on Saturday **14th December** to get to know other young Catholics from across Luton over a delicious curry. Please email: **parish.stjosephluton@northamptondiocese** for more info.

BETHANY GROUP MASS: Mass for those with special needs and their families, Sunday **15th December** at 3.00pm at Sacred Heart. Refreshments will be provided in the Parish Hall after Mass. New families always welcome.

NOVENA MASSES 'SIMBANG GABI' – The Filipino Community at St Martin de Porres RC Church, Luton invites you to attend their traditional nine days of Novena Masses of Advent - "Simbang Gabi" - **from 15th December - 23rd December at 7.30pm**. There will be a fellowship/Christmas party on the last day of the Novena Masses on 23rd December. Please bring food and drinks to share.

PEACE LIGHT SERVICE: There will be a multi-faith event to welcome and distribute the Light from Bethlehem to promote peace throughout Luton at 7.30pm on **17th December** at All Saint Church, Shaftsbury Avenue Luton LU4 8AH.

SACRED HEART PARISH THURSDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER: Please join us on Thursday **19th December** at 12.00pm Noon for the Thursday Club free Christmas Dinner after the usual 10.00am tea and bingo session. All members, old and new, are very welcome.

REMEMBER ME: A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE: 'Remember Me' is a document on criminal justice by the Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, exploring contemporary issues of criminal justice in the light of Catholic social teaching. For more go to **https://www.cbcew.org.uk/remember-me/**

DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP COURSE: The Diocese is offering a year-long leadership training course beginning in **January 2025**, called the Bethsaida Leadership Course for any formal or informal leaders in parishes to build confidence to take a lead with Parish activities. For more info go to **https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/bethsaida-leadership-course/**.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 1st December 2024 - Envelopes: £674.70; Loose cash: £326.63; Total: £1,001.33 Thank you. As many already do, you can Gift Aid your donation, enabling us to claim from the government an extra 25p for every £1 you donate at no extra cost to you. You can also donate by card via the DONA Machine located in the church.

CAROLS IN THE MALL: All are welcome to join carol singers from NTCG Luton Worship Team between 10.30am and 11.15am on Saturday **14th December** for a carol service in the Arndale Centre at the Luton Point, Smith's Square (outside Lidl) sponsored by Luton Point, Churches Together in Luton and Luton Community Chaplaincy.

SAFEGUARDING: Bishop David Oakley is available to meet in private discussion in a safe environment with anyone affected by abuse and their families or supporters by contacting safeguarding office on 01604 723514 or email **safeguarding@northamptondiocese.org**

BECOMING A TEACHER: If you are interested in training to become a teacher, St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust is hosting a series of open mornings in December and January for you to find out all about their Train to Teach programme starting in **September 2025**. To find out more and to book a place at an open morning, visit **www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher**

COLUMBANS LAUNCH 2025 SCHOOLS COMPETITION - JUBILEE: PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Competition welcomes both written and image entries until 7th February 2025, winners being announced on10th March 2025. Cash prizes – first prize £300 – competition open to 13–18-year-old students. More information available on Columban Competition website – **https://www.columbancompetition.com**

LUX 2025: LUX is an annual residential weekend for young people aged 11 - 18yrs. In 2025 it will take place **5th - 7th February** at Sion Catholic Community, Brentwood. The theme for LUX this year is Hope in-line with the theme for the Jubilee year, exploring what Hope means for young people today, using the life and travel of St. Paul to guide us. Bookings are now live on the NYMO website **https://nymo.org/lux-hope-2025/**. Included in the cost is accommodation, food, and social activities (e.g. high ropes, inflatable obstacle courses etc). We have a maximum capacity of 60 this year, so make sure you book sooner rather than later to avoid missing out. Contact **NYMO.admin@northamtondiocese.com** to find out more.

NYMO YOUTH MINISTRY - FLAME 2025: Flame 2025 will be on **15th March 2025** at the OVO Arena, Wembley for people aged 14 - 25. The bookings and tickets for Flame 2025 are now live on the NMYO website **nymo.org/flame-2025.** There are 2 options for buying tickets: entrance only tickets (£29) or entrance + transport tickets (£48). There are a limited number of these early bird tickets available and once they are all sold, prices will increase to £31 for entrance tickets, and £50 for entrance + transport. To secure your places you will need to both submit a booking form and purchase tickets. Transport pick-up points will be: Northampton, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Luton, Slough, and High Wycombe. To find out more contact **NYMO.admin@northamtondiocese.com**.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Mary-Ann Walsh 1974; Mary O'Donoghue 1983; Eric Fowler 1987; Mary Cassidy 1991; Maggie Hayes 2002; Mary (Bridget) Hope 2013; Louise Taylor 1969; Mary Robinson 1962; Charlotte Mary Byrne 2011; James Connolly 1980; Stanislawa Curtis 2000; Henry (Harry) Sheridan 2008; Sinead Patricia Garahee-Sugrue 2018; James Bennett 1988; Maurice Croke 1993; John Joseph Comerford 2013; Margaret Burton 1982; Carmella Borcellino 2003; Bridget Mulligan 2009; Bridget Gallagher 2017; Francis Beirne 1982; Frederick Stockley 1991; Bridget Toomey 1997; Bridget Burke 2001; Thomas Hennessy 2002; Jean Van Develde 2002; Bill Land 2005; Lenos Moses Wilson 2014; James Walsh 1974; Hugh Devlin 1977; Thomas Hunt 1992; Vernon McLaughlin 1998; Nellie Hope 2009; Gerard (Gerry) McCarthy 2010.
✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.**

CASPAR PARISH REGISTRATION: From **1st January 2025** all parishes in our diocese can only use the CASPAR system to retain parishioner details. If you have not done so already, please go to **www.caspar.church/me?ID=56040** or use the QR code (on the right) to register. Alternatively, if you do not have the necessary technology or knowhow, please feel free to contact the parish office to have your registration completed on your behalf.