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 1st March 2026
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Psalter Week 2

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Allan R. Jones, CRIC, M.A., MTh.
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan (On Sabbatical)
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: hallbookings.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 497370
Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

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 Thanksgiving – Nwufo Family People of Our Parish	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**
Monday 2nd March	9.30am	Mary Bray RIP	
Tuesday 3rd March	9.30am	Alan Chandler RIP (1st Anniversary) John Chandler RIP & Breda Chandler RIP **PRAYER GROUP**: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond	
Wednesday 4th March	9.30am	Healing – Private Intention	
Thursday 5th March **PARISH HALL** **CHURCH**	9.30am **10am-12 Noon** **7.00pm**	Faye Howell RIP **THURSDAY CLUB** **BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS**	
Friday 6th March	**9.30am** **KS2 SHP attending** **6.30pm** **7.00pm** **Following 7pm Mass**	Filomena Paixao RIP & Vincente Gamba RIP Evening Prayer Joan Conway RIP **Stations of the Cross** **Confessions**	
Saturday 7th March	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions	
Sunday 8th March **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Bernie McGrath RIP	**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

PARISH HALL: Open after 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- Friday 8.50am followed by Rosary - All welcome.
EVENING PRAYER: Friday 6.30pm (During Lent).

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: For disarmament and peace
Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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 Carol Ziccardi, Joanne Nolan, Katie Synan, Gloria Keegan (wife of John Keegan), Martin Ritchie and Joan Conway (Mother of Russ Conway) who died recently. Please keep Carol, Joanne, Katie, Gloria, Martin and Joan in your prayers and keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS:
Catherine 'Katie' Synan RIP, Monday 9th March, Requiem 10.00am at Sacred Heart Church
Carol Ziccardi RIP, Thursday 12th March, Funeral Service 10.45am at Sacred Heart Church
Gloria Keegan RIP, Thursday 26th March, Requiem 11.00am 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.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY, ALAN CHANDLER RIP: Please remember Alan in your prayers as his family gather at Sacred Heart this week to lovingly honour Alan on his first anniversary. Please keep Alan's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

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.

'GWYL DEWI SANT HAPUS I BAWB SY'N DATHLU!' – Happy St. David's Day to all who are celebrating!

NEW WINESKINS DISCERNMENT PROCESS OPEN MEETINGS:
Friday 6th March: St Mary's Dunstable, 10.00am & Saturday 7th March: St Martin de Porres, 2:30pm
Last year Bishop David launched the New Wineskins discernment process, inviting us to reflect on how we can become more resilient and mission-oriented into the future. Small listening groups happened across Luton and Dunstable, with key themes including standing proud as Catholics in the local community, helping everyone (especially families and young people) to grow in faith, a sustainable workload for our priests (recognising that there will be smaller numbers in the future), resolving some significant issues with buildings and finances, and improving our social outreach. A small group of parishioners and clergy have been meeting since then to discern possible solutions. Come along to any of these open meetings for an update and to find out more.

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.

THURSDAY CLUB: 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.**

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: At all Masses this weekend 28th February, 1st March in aid of FAMILY FAST DAY.

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.

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**

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**

ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK & CO MAYO, 26TH APRIL 2026: £999.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Cooking demonstration. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email **knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.**

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 22.02.2026: Envelopes £754.50; Loose Cash £397.89; Total £1152.39 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:
Thomas Farrell 1993; Bridget Nee 1996; Ivy Stockley 1998; Andrew Culbertson 2007;
Margery Curtin 2007; Eunice Lloyd-Bernard Johnette 2013; Mary Margaret Fallon 2022;
Margaret Knight 1992; Mary Jane Crow 1958; Elizabeth McLaughlin 1964; Angela Saggia 1982;
Catherine Perry 2012; Sarah Holton 1987; Rosina Bernes 2008; Edward Bernes 2020:
Winifred Mooney 2010; Margaret Rose Kelly 2012; Henry Adam 1994; Annie Murphy 1996;
Brigid McNulty 1997; Annie O'Riley 2005; Irene Davey 1989; Antonino Calvino 1991;
Nan Pollard 2008; Paul Divney 2014; Alice Flatley 2006; Colin Draper 2006;
Thomas Joseph Dolan 2008; Bernard McGrath 2009; Sarah Doherty 1965; Janek Stevens 2003;
Margaret (Rita) Sansom 2018✠ **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)