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 26th January 2026
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Psalter Week 3
SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

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 24th January	**11.00am-12 Noon** 5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	**Churches Together in Luton: Unity Service at Holy Ghost Church** Evening Prayer Confessions Joseph Borg RIP	**St Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
Sunday 25th January **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish McManus & Sherry Family Deceased Members RIP **Diocesan Celebration in Northampton Cathedral**	**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **Sunday of the Word of God**
Monday 26th January	**11.15am**	**REQUIEM: CHARLOTTE MAGUIRE**	**SS Timothy and Titus, Bishops**
Tuesday 27th January	**NO MASS**		
Wednesday 28th January	9.30am	Mary McCafferty RIP	**St Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church**
Thursday 29th January	9.30am **10.00am-12Noon**	Tommy Slattery RIP **THURSDAY CLUB**	
Friday 30th January	**NO MASS**		
Saturday 31st January	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Bridget McDonnell RIP	**St John Bosco, Priest**
Sunday 1st February **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Bridie Tobin RIP (5th Anniversary)	**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **Day of Prayer for Racial Justice**

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: Wednesday and Thursday this week - 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.

SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend 31st January/1st February there will be a second collection at all Masses in aid of **Racial Justice Sunday.** Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales throughout society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms.

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 Charlotte Maguire who died recently. Please keep Charlotte in your prayers and keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: Charlotte Maguire RIP, **Requiem Monday 26th January at 11.15am** 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.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: Please pick up and complete a form in the Foyer to show your availability to read at your preferred Mass time attendance. Thank you. Completed forms to be returned to the Parish Office.

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 **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. 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.

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 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.

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. Next weekend will be your last chance to donate to NOAH through our Crib Collection.

PRAYER SERVICE: A Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – One Body, One Spirit, Light from Light for Light. **Saturday 24th January 2026, 11.00am followed by refreshments** at Holy Ghost Church, Luton LU4 8JD. See Poster on the Noticeboard.

LAST CALL FOR ONLINE MARRIAGE PROGRAMME: Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026**. www.retrouvaille.org.uk** Tel: 07887 296983

SUNDAY of the WORD of GOD – 25th January 2026: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (Colossians 3:16). The Dicastery for Evangelisation has prepared a series of resources that are available at:
evangelisatio.va/content/pcpne/en/parola/2026
Celebrating the Sunday – our Liturgy at the Cathedral 3pm with reflections by Fr Jerome Ituah OCD and commissioning of readers to proclaim the Word. Booklet available on the diocesan website. Follow the liturgy on the livestream.
Going one step further – **Saturday 31st January 11am-3.00pm** - A day for readers to reflect and share at Holy Ghost Centre, Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD. Refreshments will be available.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT: During Lent, the Pastoral Development Vicariate is offering the opportunity for online small group sessions once a week for 6 weeks beginning w.c. 16th February. During each weekly small group session, facilitators will be using St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources, allowing you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Within the session, there will also be time for silent reflection and sharing what spoke to you from Scripture. Sessions will be available on various days and times.
To find out more information and to sign-up to our introductory webinar on Tuesday 27th January, 7:30pm, visit our diocesan website: **https://northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/**

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

SAFEGUARDING SURVEY FOR THE YOUTH: The diocesan Safeguarding team is looking at how young people perceive safeguarding and how they receive information from a diocesan level. They want to know how we can communicate better so if you are aged 11 to 18, please take 5 minutes to complete a few questions using this link, or by scanning the QR code displayed on the Noticeboard.
Northampton Diocese Safeguarding Feedback 2025 - Youth – Fill in form

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 18.01.2026: Envelopes £706.60; Loose Cash £284.53; Total £991.13 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/**

7TH-14TH FEBRUARY - THE JOY OF LOVE: ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE: On the Feast of St Joseph, 19th March 2026, will be the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia – "On Love in the Family." To prepare for this anniversary, we invite you from the beginning of National Marriage Week, 7th – 14th February until 19th March 2026, to reflect on the central role that marriage and family life play in our Church and in wider society. The Joy of Love published in 2022 by the Bishops' Conference Committee for Marriage and Family Life explores the key themes of Amoris Laetitia on: Joy, Love, Mercy, Realities and Discernment, and Mission.
For more information visit: **https://cbcew.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/07/AL-Joy-of-Love.pdf**

THE ASCENT: Are you 16-18 and looking to grow in your faith? Then you need to know about The Ascent. The Ascent is a one-of-a-kind process of discipleship run by volunteers across the UK for people in school years 10-12. It partners with organisations like NYMO to bring young people together to learn about their faith and grow in relationship with Jesus. There are three parts to the process:

- 3 residential weekends per year providing opportunities for teaching and formation in the Catholic faith, encounter with Jesus Christ, personal prayer, and envisioning of your next steps.
- Weekly 'PoDs' (Pockets of Disciples) which are small groups who meet together online for friendship and formation.
- Monthly 1:1 mentoring giving you a space to talk, process, and get support from a trained member of the team.

Contact NYMO (NYMO@northamptondiocese.com) or visit their website to find out more (nymo.org/the-ascent-2). There are only 6 places left for the 2026 group so don't miss out!

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

COULD YOU BE A MAGISTRATE? TRAINING PROVIDED: As you may have seen in the press, e.g. **https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp87xm23e8ko**, the government is giving extra powers to magistrates and is seeking to recruit many more. This puts greater responsibility of magistrates to ensure that justice is served in our nation and town. Those close to the criminal justice system are aware of the dangers being faced in maintaining justice and the need for greater diversity amongst magistrates, most currently being older white men!
Any member of the public with a clean record and no conflict of interest may become a magistrate, training is given. Currently the role is voluntary, and most work places will grant time for you to serve. This is therefore a unique opportunity for Christians in our town to serve the greater good.
We would encourage members of our congregations to consider applying for the role of magistrates. **Become a magistrate: Apply to be a magistrate – GOV.UK**
Visit: https://www.gov.uk/become-magistrate/apply-to-be-a-magistrate

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Joseph George Bennett 2014; Bridget McLoughlin 1971; Michael Dolan 1986;
Arthur Henry Wiggins 2015; Tim Naughton 2021; Meta Hatzel 1973; Charles Massey 1988;
Edward Popham 1994; Timothy Coakley 2001; Norah McDonald 2008; William (Billy) Hannon 2014;
Annetta Shane 1964; Lesley Henrik 1977; Peter Brown 1992; Dorothy Mulholland 1997;
Bridget McDonnell 2012; Elizabeth Blythe 1981; Baby Lloyd Shaw 1999;
Baby Christopher Rolleston 1982; Oliver Donaghy 1988; Patrick Gallagher 1998; Joseph Varga 2003;
Peter Joseph Forde 2017; Kathleen Concepta Long 'Bunny' 2024; Ken Bowes 2023;
Bridget (Bridie) Ann Tobin 2021; Mary McCormick 1986; Kathleen Angela Gibbon 2012
✠ **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)