

HEART TO HEART

Newsletter of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Luton
Part of the Diocese of Northampton, Province of Westminster and Deanery of St Alban

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B - 13th December 2020

Parish Priest: Fr Mirek Misiura
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan
Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted
Pastoral Area Reps: Jenny Dowsett and Sandra Dias
Address: 148 Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds LU2 9AY
Email: parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
Parish Website: sacredheartluton.org
Parish Office: ☎ 723099
Reg Charity No: 234091

Parish Centre Manager: Wesley Weekes
Safeguarding: Margaret Berry and Pat Abela
Pastoral Area Website: lutonpastoralarea.org
Diocesan Website: northamptondiocese.org
Re-employment Website: vitaeopus.co.uk
Sacred Heart Primary School: ☎ 730781
Cardinal Newman School: ☎ 597125
Hospital Chaplain: ☎ 663706
Hospice Chaplain: ☎ 502400



PARISH OFFICE: The Parish office is closed with Parish admin being managed remotely on a part time voluntary basis via the new Parish Office email address parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: We will be putting up the Christmas decorations and the Crib display after the 9.30am Mass this Wednesday (16th). You would be most welcome to help out, many hands make light work!

MASSES: Our four weekly public Masses are Saturday (6.30pm), Sunday (9.00am and 11.00am) and Wednesday (9.30am). There are no private prayer sessions in the Church. The Christmas Masses will be

Christmas Eve	Thursday	6.00pm and 8.00pm
Christmas Day	Friday	9.00am and 11.00am
The Holy Family	Sunday	9.00am and 11.00am

With six Masses available over the four days, hopefully everybody who would like to attend a Mass will be able to do so, notwithstanding the Covid capacity restrictions, especially if attendance is reasonably evenly spread out. If we reach the reduced capacity limit, the Stewards will not be able to let more attendees in.

There will also be a public Mass on New Year's Day (which falls on a Friday this year) at 9.30am. There will be a second collection next weekend (19th/20th) for Sea Sunday. There will be no Masses on Saturday 26th.

Covid rules apply to all Masses, including hand sanitising, social distancing face covering, unless exempt. For Mass intentions, email parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org or place an envelope in the Presbytery letterbox with the name of the person and/or nature of the intention.

Saturday 12 th	6.30pm	Ayen Family Deceased	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday 13 th	9.00am 11.00am	Lillian Kightley RIP People of the Parish	
Monday 14 th	Private	Bill Gear RIP	St John of the Cross
Tuesday 15 th	Private		
Wednesday 16 th	9.30am	Arthur McNaughtan RIP	
Thursday 17 th	Private	John Joe Wall RIP	O Wisdom
Friday 18 th	Private 10.00am Noon	Jose Pedro Da Costa RIP Funeral - Francis Anthony Mcalliney RIP Luton Crematorium Funeral - Kathleen O'Callaghan RIP Sacred Heart Church	O Adonai
Saturday 19 th	6.30pm	Hugh and Mary Byrne - Get Well	O Root of Jesse

Entrance Antiphon	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
Psalm Response	My soul rejoices in my God.
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!
Communion Antiphon	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

SACRAMENTS: There are no Confessions or Rosary and Baptisms are by necessity only. Weddings with up to 15 attendees and funerals with a maximum of 30 attendees are permitted with Covid rules applying. No pastoral visits can be made if self-isolating until the isolation period ends.

CONFIRMATION 2021: Some of our Confirmation catechists are stepping down and we will need more catechists to run the 2021 Confirmation programme. Please consider if this could be a way for you to serve our church community by offering your gifts and talents as a catechist. If you would like to discuss this opportunity with a current catechist then please ring Bozena on 01582 708693.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS: Thank you to our volunteer cleaners and stewards who enable us to open the Church for Masses and to conduct funerals. If you would also like to volunteer, are under 70 years of age and not shielding, then please email parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT: A free online coaching programme www.vitaeopus.co.uk is available to Parishioners providing a wealth of job hunting and self employment information and advice for anybody seeking work. Please pass the web link on to anyone who might find it helpful.

SCHOOL PLACES IN LUTON: An application for a school place must be made by 15th January 2021 for any child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017. For an information pack or further information please email admissions@luton.gov.uk or call 01582 548016 or write to Admissions Team, Children, Families and Education Directorate, Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton, LU1 2BQ.

DIOCESAN UPDATES: If you would like to be kept up to date with the latest news and information from Bishop David, the Curial Departments and Cathedral Diocese then enter your email address in the box in the top right hand corner of the Diocesan web page www.northamptondiocese.org

SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICIES: St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust has updated the Admission Policies (for September 2022 admissions) for Cardinal Newman Catholic School, St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Primary School and St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School. The consultation period is open until 31 December 2020. Go to www.stcat.co.uk/trust-governance/consultation-documents to view the policies. For hard copy or to make comments, 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.

PARISH GIVING: In addition to other options (see www.sacredheartluton.org) to make donations, you can call the Diocese each Tuesday between **10.00am** and **4.00pm**, a member of the Cathedral team will be available by phone on **01604 712065** for you to make a Parish donation.

HELPING OTHERS: Please do what you safely can for elderly or vulnerable people in the community, especially those living alone. Pastoral care is available by contacting the Parish Office. Please print and safely pass on a copy of this newsletter to Parishioners who do not have online access.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP: The Prayer Group continues to gather virtually and would be pleased to pray for any intentions. Please email your intentions to parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org

FRANCIS ANTHONY MCALINNEY RIP: The funeral service for Francis will be at 10.00am on Friday 18th December at Luton Crematorium. Covid restrictions apply, including face coverings, unless exempt, plus a maximum of 30 attendees.

KATHLEEN (KATE) O'CALLAGHAN RIP: The funeral service for Kathleen will be at Noon on Friday 18th December at Sacred Heart Church followed by burial at 1.15pm at The Vale Cemetery. Covid restrictions apply, including face coverings, unless exempt, plus a maximum of 30 attendees.

RIP: Please remember Francis Anthony McCalliney, Kathleen O'Callaghan RIP and Jose Pedro Vincente Da Costa RIP and all other recently deceased Parishioners and also keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Robinson 1962; 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; John Gannon 1972; Eileen Leahy 1983; Peter McCarron 1999; Gerrard West 1962; Mary Walker 1964; Andrew Smith 1988; Michael McHugh 1998; Jolan Mizsei 2004; Frank Nemeth 1998; Baby Keiden Lansangan 2017; Mary Kinnane 1959; Charles Gauron 1976; William Fleming 1977; Baby Nicola Lemmon 1987; Martin McDonald 1997; Patricia Gallagher 2013. ✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.**

DIOCESAN FINANCES: The following letter is from the recently appointed Diocesan Chief Operating Officer, Tony McNiff, to introduce himself to you and also to provide an update on the Covid related financial position of the Diocese.

Dear Fellow Parishioners

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chief Operating Officer at the Diocese having joined at the beginning of September.

I am very much looking forward to visiting the parishes across the Diocese as soon as possible but unfortunately the constraints of COVID-19 have meant that I have been unable to visit as many as I would have wished.

Parishes I have visited and the financial returns from those I have not, tell a very similar story. The reality of the situation is that they have been struggling to cover their costs with reduced income. Over the period to September 20 (the latest accounts produced), income received has dropped by almost £1.7m and whilst efforts have been put in place to reduce costs including claiming support from the Government's furlough scheme and reducing property expenditure to all but essential H&S related matters, a reduction of this magnitude has been difficult to manage.

I would, first of all, like to thank you for the generosity that you have shown in continuing to support the life of our parishes over recent months. I am also acutely aware that many are suffering significant hardship as a result of the pandemic

But, as we come out of lockdown and our churches reopen more fully, our costs will start to increase and it will become increasingly challenging to support our parishes with reduced levels of donations. For that reason, I am asking you consider recommencing or increasing your donations if you are able to do so.

The support of those parishioners who contribute regularly by standing order and the associated Gift Aid we have been able to claim from the Government have been invaluable over the last 9 months and have highlighted how important this method of giving is. If you are able to contribute by standing order, please consider doing so. The Finance Team at Bishops House can help you with this if you are unable to arrange this locally.

If you are unable to attend Church and therefore find it difficult to contribute, please remember that you can do so online or by ringing the Diocesan Finance Team at Bishops' House who will be pleased to help you donate.

Our priests rely heavily on your contributions, particularly at Christmas and Easter and your generous offerings at these times are hugely appreciated.

Thank you for listening and for your ongoing support.

Tony McNiff