



Heart to Heart

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C – Psalter Week 3 – 12th December 2021

Parish Priest: Fr Mirek Misiura

Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan

Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted

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Address: 148 Ashcroft Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds., LU2 9AY

Parish Info: www.sacredheartluton.org

Diocesan Info: www.northamptondiocese.org

Parish Office: 01582 723099

Sacred Heart Primary School: 01582 730781

Cardinal Newman School: 01582 597125

L&D Hospital Chaplain: 01582 663706

Hospice Chaplain: 01582 502400

Pastoral Area Info: www.lutonpastoralarea.org

Redundancy Coaching Info: www.vitaeopus.co.uk

COVID MASK WEARING REQUIREMENT: The Government has announced that from Friday 10th December the public, and staff in public facing areas, are required to wear face coverings (unless exempt) including in places of worship. Please ensure that you bring a face covering with you when attending Mass.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am until 12 Noon. When leaving a voicemail message please state the date and leave a contact number. Thank you.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9.30 am. Please check the weekly Newsletter for the Mass Intentions.

NEWSLETTERS: Newsletters are available this weekend. Please do not leave your copy in the Church.

NEWSPAPER: The Catholic Post, a free newspaper, is available in the Foyer. Please take a copy home.

Saturday 11 th	6.30pm	Hugh Byrne RIP (1 st Anniversary)	St Damasus I
Sunday 12 th	9.00am 11.00am	Billy Purcell RIP Socorro Roque RIP	
Monday 13 th	No Mass		St Lucy
Tuesday 14 th	9.30am	Ann Kelleher RIP (1 st Anniversary)	St John of the Cross
Wednesday 15 th	9.30am	Arthur Stuart James McNaughtan RIP	
Thursday 16 th	9.30am	Martin Jones RIP	
Friday 17 th	9.30am	Lilian Vinzon Kightley RIP	O Wisdom
Saturday 18 th	6.30pm	Michael Gear RIP (1 st Anniversary)	O Adonai

Entrance Antiphon	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.
Psalm Response	Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
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.

CHRISTMAS MASS FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: At St Joseph's Church, Gardenia Avenue, Luton on December 12th at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Contact Sean on 07930305362 for further details.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: We will be putting up the Christmas decorations and the Crib display on Monday 20th December between 10.00am and 12 Noon. Volunteers would be most welcome to help out, many hands make light work!

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2021 AT SACRED HEART CHURCH: Please note the dates and times of Masses:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December 2021 - 6.00pm Mass

Christmas Eve Friday 24th December 2021 – Carols at 7.30pm followed by Mass at 8.00pm

Christmas Day Saturday 25th December 2021 – 10.00am Mass

Boxing Day Sunday 26th December 2021 – feast of The Holy Family – 9.00am Mass and 11.00am Mass

Bank Holiday Monday 27th December 2021 -St John – 10.00am Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: As we are not yet able to restart our sessions, we are setting up a small display in the church foyer for each Sunday of Advent. Please come and have a look and check out some ideas on how we can talk with our children about welcoming Our Lord at "Christ-Mass".

RORATE MASS: 17th December 2021 at Holy Ghost Church Luton at 6.30am – All welcome! (See Noticeboard.)

COVID 19 DIOCESAN ADVICE: The Diocese has provided the following advice to our Churches: You will be aware of the recent press and updated Government Guidance to help slow the arrival and spread of the Omicron variant. That advice mainly relates to measures associated with arrivals into the country but it also highlights the importance of vaccination.

It is now a legal requirement to wear face coverings in shops and on public transport. In addition, those who have come into contact with an individual who may have been infected with the Omicron variant will need to self-isolate. This will apply even if you are fully-vaccinated or aged 18 or under. These temporary measures will be reviewed in 3 weeks' time.

Our guidance recommended the following sensible mitigations

- Holy Water stoups must not be filled.
- Hand sanitiser at entrances and exits
- Face coverings to be the norm for those in church
- General cleaning to a good standard, using commonly available cleaning fluids and detergents.
- Social distancing to be encouraged
- Designating area of the church where there will be greater social distancing, if possible,
- Using face coverings where there is any congregational singing
- Maintaining adequate ventilation in the church to minimise the opportunity for the virus to spread

Having reviewed these principles and mitigations we feel that they remain balanced and sensible, particularly in light of the arrival of the new variant and its uncertain impact. Please continue to keep safe.

Please do not attend Church if you have any symptoms of Covid 19.

REFLECTING ON THE CHURCH POST COVID: An event for Christians in Luton marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on Saturday 22nd January 2022 at Holy Ghost Catholic Parish Centre, Luton, 10.00am-12.30pm. Come and share your experiences and listen to others' wisdom. The Keynote Speaker will be Bishop David. Please see the Poster on the Noticeboard for more information.

ONLINE RETREAT, MONDAYS THROUGH ADVENT: 13th and 20th December 7.30-8.30pm Join Fr John Udris and Avril Baigent for an online retreat helping us to pause, reflect and encounter the Lord. Our final two sessions focus on the lives of St Lucy and St Joseph. To join our online community on a Monday night register here: https://lift_up_your_eyes.eventbrite.co.uk, or watch the sessions here <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/lift-up-your-eyes/>

LUX.PILGRIMAGE: A fun residential weekend for young Catholics aged 11 (Year 7) -18 years from 4th-6th February 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (transportation included from Luton & Northampton). Please contact Fiona email: fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/lux for more information and to book your place.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM: If you wish to have your child baptised in 2022 at Sacred Heart Church then please contact the Office in the first instance, by email, or speak to Deacon Jim after Sunday Mass. A Baptism Preparation Course Class **must be undertaken** before Baptism can go ahead.

The dates for Baptism Preparation Classes for 2022 are as follows:

Saturday 15th January 2022; Saturday 26th February 2022; Saturday 9th April 2022;

Saturday 21st May 2022; Saturday 2nd July 2022; Saturday 10th September 2022;

Saturday 22nd October; 2022; Saturday 3rd December 2022

All classes start promptly at 3.30pm. Please speak to Deacon Jim to book your place.

VOLUNTEERS/CATECHISTS REQUIRED: Parishioners – if you have time to spare then think about becoming a volunteer/Catechist. If interested please contact Fr Mirek or the Parish Office leaving your name, telephone number and/or email address.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN FINANCE TEAM: As the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have decided to continue to offer a dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, we know that many people will not be returning to churches this Christmas. We also know that many people still wish to offer a gift to their priests for the sacrifices they make throughout the year. If you would like to offer a gift to your priest this Christmas, please call 01604 712065 between 9am-5pm from Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd and 9.00am-1pm on Friday 24th December. A member of the team would love to hear from you.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: New online newspaper. Order your digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call Michelle 0743661 7650. Special offer: only £20 for 3 months.

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2021: Mary Maybury would like to invite those who will be on their own or unable to prepare a full Christmas Dinner to come and celebrate with others, to enjoy Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, 25th December 2021 – 1.30pm to 5.00pm, at St John's R.C. Church Hall. Please contact Mary on 07866 989254 to book your place. Cost: Donations Only. Please see Noticeboard for further details.

LUTON FOODBANK: As Christmas approaches please remember those who are less fortunate and who struggle to provide for their families. Please place donations of food items (non-perishable) in the boxes in the Foyer. See the Noticeboard for a full list of items required.

LUTON DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSE: Saturday 26th February 2022 10.00am to 4.00pm at St. Joseph's Parish Centre. If you are planning to marry next year, please book your place by downloading a booking form at www.stjosephschurchluton.org.uk by Friday 18th February 2022.

MARY'S MEALS – DONATIONS: Until January every gift given to Mary's Meals will be **DOUBLED** by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. This means a gift of just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children, a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year! Your kindness brings joy to more than two million children around the world – including those affected by natural disasters, conflict and the ongoing Covid pandemic. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk. To send one of your loved ones a truly meaningful gift this Christmas, order online at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/gift-card-shop> or call 0800 698 1212.

VACANCY - PARISH SECRETARY: Part Time 20 hours per week, working pattern Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Location: Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Luton. Start date: ASAP. This is a great opportunity to work in a parish environment for someone with proven administration, financial and secretarial experience. Full information and an application form can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or by email at hadmin@northamptondiocese.com. Applications should include an Application Form, CV and a covering Letter. The closing date for applications will be Friday 17th December 2021. Interview dates to be confirmed.

THE CATHOLIC NETWORK: As Catholic writers, editors and publishers, the Catholic Network team know the importance of good, relevant communication. Their mission is to spread the Good News and keep you in regular touch with Catholic concerns. Please support The Catholic Network by subscribing to their free weekly newsletter at www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk

CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY (SEPTEMBER 2023): St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust has updated the Cardinal Newman Catholic School Admission Policy (for admission in September 2023). The consultation period is now open until 31 December 2021. Details of the policy can be found on the Trust website (<https://www.stcat.co.uk/trust-governance/consultation/>). If you require a hard copy or have comments to make in regard to the proposed policy, please contact Maxine Gilmartin (consultation@stcat.co.uk, or by post to Maxine Gilmartin, St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Pastures Way, Luton, LU4 0PF).

NOAH WINTER APPEAL: As winter approaches, NOAH Enterprise's services and support become even more crucial for vulnerable people who are homeless and sleeping rough. This winter, with your help, NOAH hope to raise £10,000 to ensure that no one goes cold and hungry in Luton and Central Bedfordshire this year. Visit: www.noahenterprise.org/winter-appeal-2021/

WARM CLOTHING: Noah kindly requests donations of warm clothing for the predicted colder weather (particularly gloves, hats, scarves, jumpers, coats etc.) Please deliver directly to their Store Support Centre, 4a Power Court, Luton, LU1 3JJ – Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

WINTER HEATING SMALL GRANT: Supported by the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, Luton Irish Forum will be making small grants to people who are having difficulty with their heating costs or need other small essential items. Anyone who is interested should call 01582 720 447 or email info@lutonirishforum.org

ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Mary Kinnane 1959; Charles Gauron 1976; William Fleming 1977; Baby Nicola Lemmon 1987; Martin McDonald 1997; Patricia Gallagher 2013; Baby Michelle Coleman 1981; John MacGuire 1984; Charles Graham 1964; Colin Reynolds 1968; Catherine Higgins 1989; Frances Edmunds 1995; Mary Murray 2001; Margaret O'Riley 2002; Michael Gear 2020; Arthur Stuart James McNaughtan 2019; Emelia Ceresale 1975; John Morrissey 1983; Mary McCaffrey 1996; Barry Shakeshaft 1986; Patrick Joseph Sweeney 2015; Lilian Vinzon Kightley 2015

✠ **May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.**