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 14th December 2025
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETTE
Psalter Week 3

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**Come, Lord, and save us.**

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 13th December	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Michael Gear RIP	**St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**
Sunday 14th December **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Pat Brennan RIP (3rd Anniversary) **Bethany Mass**	**THIRD SUNDAY OF SUNDAY – GAUDETTE**
Monday 15th December	9.30am	Arthur McNaughtan RIP	
Tuesday 16th December	9.30am **7.00pm-8.00pm**	Rod Mason RIP Confessions	
Wednesday 17th December	9.30am	Daniel Gois RIP	
Thursday 18th December **PARISH HALL**	9.30am **10.00am-11.00am** **10am-12Noon** **7.00pm-8.00pm**	Nunes & Gois Deceased Family Members RIP **Confessions** **THURSDAY CLUB - Christmas Dinner** **Confessions**	
Friday 19th December	9.30am	Andrew Carleton RIP	
Saturday 20th December	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Mary Moynihan RIP	
Sunday 21st December **PARISH HALL** **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **6.00pm**	Morning Prayer Davide Nilletti RIP People of Our Parish **Christmas Jumper Sunday Competition** **Carol Event**	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PARISH HALL: The Parish Hall is open after the Sunday 11.00am Mass for teas and coffees. All welcome!

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm every Saturday or by appointment. Please also note there will be Confessions this week on **Tuesday 16th December from 7.00pm-8.00pm** and on **Thursday 18th December from 10.00am-11.00am. and 7.00pm-8.00pm**

MORNING PRAYER: Monday-Friday 8.50am followed by Rosary – All welcome.
EVENING PRAYER: Tuesday and Thursday 6.45pm.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SUNDAY: Enter the **Christmas Jumper Competition** – four age categories: **KS1 and under; KS2; Secondary Education; Adult. £1 to enter.** First prize and runner up prize for each category! Come and join in the Christmas fun in the Parish Hall **after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 21st December.**

SACRED HEART PARISH CAROL EVENT: Sunday 21st December at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to this relaxed event in the Parish Social Centre. Refreshments will be available for this seasonal all age gathering.

THURSDAY CLUB: 10.00am-12 Noon. All welcome! Thursday Club **Christmas Dinner Thursday 18th December – members old and new welcome.**
Thursday Club will close for 2025 after the Christmas Dinner on 18th December and will reopen on **Thursday 8th January 2026.** Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard in providing this wonderful opportunity to socialise. Enjoy your well-earned rest!

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).

BETHANY MASS: Sunday 14th December at 3.00pm. Refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All welcome!

VACANCY PARISH SECRETARY: Parish Secretary to provide administration support to the parish of St Margaret of Scotland, Luton. The role will be for 7 hours per week, ideally worked Tuesday and Friday. Flexible working pattern to be agreed.
Full information for the position 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 This vacancy remains open until the position is filled.

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

NOAH BLUE BINS: Please note NOAH Blue Bins will be available to accept donations at Sacred Heart this weekend **13th/14th December**. Please donate your good quality, preloved items to help others in need.

CHRISTMAS TREE/CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Volunteers required to dress the Christmas tree and decorate the Church after the 9.30am Mass on Monday 15th December. Please speak to Maurice or Wesley. Refreshments in the Presbytery afterwards.

LUTON FOODBANK: Please take a moment to read the Luton Foodbank November 2025 Newsletter
https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/luton-foodbank-newsletter-november-2025/
It includes important updates about: The rise in people needing food support; Christmas appeals, including Luton Smiles and the Reverse Advent Calendar; Support available such as the Food Club and the Essential Skills Course.
One way in which you can help is to join the Reverse Advent Calendar. (Copies available in the Foyer.)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: CHRISTMAS MASSES: Can Ministers please sign the sign-up form in the Foyer to show availability to minister at the four Christmas Masses? Thank you.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 7th December 2025 Loose cash £298.55; Envelopes £827.60; Total: £1126.15 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/**

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2025: Mary Maybury would like to invite those on their own or unable to prepare a full Christmas Dinner to a 4 course Christmas Dinner at:
St John's RC Church Hall LU3 3AL on Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December, 1.30pm-5.00pm.
Cost: Donations only. Transport will be provided if there are enough volunteers who can provide transport. **Please contact Mary on 07866 989254 to book your place.**

DOUBLE YOUR LOVE FOR MARY'S MEALS THIS CHRISTMAS! Donations made to Mary's Meals will be **doubled** by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1 million! This means your kindness will go even further and Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children with a life-changing school meal. Millions of children are still waiting for Mary's Meals, unable to go to school because of poverty and hunger. Those that do attend are often too hungry to learn. With your support, more and more children will wake each morning knowing they will eat a good meal today – and have hope for a brighter tomorrow. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Double The Love, a donation of **£19.15** will feed **two children**. Together, through Double The Love, we can turn hunger into hope for many more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. Visit: **https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/double-the-love**

SUPPORTING THE JUBILEE FOR PRISONERS – A CALL TO ACTION: In the lead-up to the Jubilee for Prisoners on 14th December, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is delighted to share a new Call to Action Guide, developed in response to last year's Bishops' Conference publication *Remember Me*, which explores the realities of the criminal justice system in the UK. Documents can be found here **https://www.csan.org.uk/news/responding-to-remember-me-a-call-to-prayer-reflection-and-action/** The *Remember Me* Call to Action guide is designed to empower parishes and individuals to discern practical ways to support people with convictions and the wider communities affected by the criminal justice system. It includes a variety of practical ideas and suggestions to help each parish respond to this important call to accompany and support those in need.

ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT: Monday 15th December, 7.30pm. Disrupted by Grace, for our final Advent Retreat, Dr Avril Baigent will be joined by Canon John Udris who will continue exploring Jesus' more disreputable ancestors. Canon John will be unpacking Bathsheba for us whilst exploring the presence of grace in our lives. Find out more information and register here: **https://northamptondiocese.org/grace/**

CANDLELIT CAROLS FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL: Tuesday 16th December at the junction of Stuart Street and Buxton Road, Luton (LU1 1SD), Luton (near the Police Station) **7.00pm to 8.00pm.**

CROWN OF ADVENT NOVENA: A reminder that the Crown of Advent Novena begins on 17th December. This beautiful nine-day devotion invites us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ through Scripture, prayer, and reflection on the themes of the Advent wreath.
This is an opportunity for individuals and families to unite in prayer during these days of hopeful expectation. More information: **www.northamptondiocese.org/advent-novena/**

THE COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM: Seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their apostolates of prayer, parish missions, hospitality, chaplaincy and youth work. Any amount, large or small is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. Cheques payable to COLW can be sent to *House of the Divine Will,* **Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ.**
More information, as well as the option to donate online, can be found at: www.maryshouseappeal.org E: office@walsinghamcommunity.org T: 01362 692574

VACANCY – EXAM INVIGILATOR - CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Exam Invigilators are required to supplement an experienced and committed team of public examination invigilators. This team invigilate public examinations at GCSE and GCE (Advanced) Level and are required to be available primarily during May and June but also at other examination periods throughout the year. Working hours are flexible. Morning sessions begin at 08:30am and afternoon sessions may not end until 5.00pm. For more information and to apply, please see our My New Term webpage **https://mynewterm.com/jobs/142310/EDV-2025-CNCSSSC-91753**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: As from January 2026 we would like a Rota to be set up with volunteers to make/serve teas/coffees after the Sunday 11.00am Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to gather after Sunday Mass but the facility is not being utilised as it should be. Without more volunteers we cannot continue to offer this service. So please email the Parish or speak to Wes if you are able to help out on a regular basis and are happy to have your name put forward to be added on a Rota. **We need more volunteers!**

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026: If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 you must apply for a school place **by 15th January 2026. You can apply online at luton.gov.uk/school admissions** (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)
To get an information pack or to ask for further information and advice please contact: Admissions Team, Children, Families and Education Directorate, Luton Council, Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ. Telephone: 01582 548016 or email: **admissions@luton.gov.uk**

RETROUVAILLE: Helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.
Next date: 12th February 2026.
www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

LUX: 13th -15th February 2026, Kings Park Centre, Northampton.
Who: Ages 11-18 (school years 7-13) How much? £110
If you've not heard about it before, LUX is our diocesan residential weekend for teens that happens in February every year. It's for those in school years 7 – 13 and is a weekend packed with activity. Every year we explore a theme through workshops, dramas, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs, and time with friends. This year's theme is Belong.
Visit nymo.org/lux-belong-2026/ or email NYMO@northamptondiocese.com to find out more.

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Francis Beirne 1982; 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 Morrisey 1983; Mary McCaffrey 1996; Patrick (Pat) Brennan 2021; Barry Shakeshaft 1986; Patrick Joseph Sweeney 2015; Lilian Vinzon Kightley 2015; Nelson Weeden 1980; Pietro de Lucia 1984; Patrick Savage 1978; John O'Hara 1982; Stephen Leahy 1989; Antony Giugno 1998; Catherine McGhee 2014; Margaret Rose Ann Holyland 2019 ✠ **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 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)