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 8th March 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Psalter Week 3

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'**

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 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**
Monday 9th March	**10.00am**	**REQUIEM: CATHERINE 'KATIE' SYNAN**	
Tuesday 10th March	9.30am	Maureen O'Dwyer RIP **PRAYER GROUP**: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond	
Wednesday 11th March	9.30am	Healing – Private Intention	
Thursday 12th March **PARISH HALL** **CHURCH**	9.30am **10.45am** **10am-12 Noon**	Antonio Pittiglio RIP **FUNERAL: CAROL ZICCARDI** **THURSDAY CLUB**	
Friday 13th March	**6.30pm** **7.00pm** **Following 7pm Mass**	Evening Prayer Gloria Keegan RIP **Stations of the Cross** **Confessions**	
Saturday 14th March	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Simon Comerford RIP (1st Anniversary)	
Sunday 15th March **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer Reginald Blake RIP (35th Anniversary) People of Our Parish	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LAETARE**

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: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 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. Mass throughout Lent at 7.00pm each Friday followed by Stations of the Cross.** All welcome to attend.

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.

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.

SEAN O'RIADA MASS: Tuesday 17th March 9.30am. Our Lady Help of Christians.
A Gaelic sung mass featuring the Luton Irish Forum Choir. All welcome to attend!

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. The February 2026 newsletter from Luton Foodbank includes updates on recent community initiatives, partnerships, and stories that reflect both the positive impact of local support and the continuing need within our area. It also outlines volunteer contributions, current donation priorities, and upcoming opportunities to get involved.
Your time in reading and sharing this update is greatly appreciated. You can read the full newsletter here: **https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/luton-foodbank-newsletter-february-2026/**

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. A **second collection** at all Masses over the weekend of **Saturday 22nd March/Sunday 23rd March** will take place to raise funds to facilitate the installation of a Bleed Kit Cabinet.

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).

HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM – EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS AND READERS: Please add your name to the Rota for Holy Week and Triduum. A sheet is available in the Foyer.

FURNITURE BANK: Caritas in the diocese of Northampton responds to local poverty and hardship through a number of initiatives like the Furniture Bank, ensuring that families in the diocese receive the dignity and care they deserve.
The Furniture Bank operating out of St John the Apostle Church, provides essential furniture and household items including beds, storage, chairs, bedding, flooring, and cooking utensils to families and individuals in real need.
Can you help? Donating furniture? Volunteering to help? Collecting and distributing items?
If yes or for more information please contact: Deacon Jim Hannigan 07756 685220
Email: deaconjimhannigan@northamptondiocese.org
Website: northamptondiocese.org/caritas

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.**

THANK YOU FROM CAFOD: Thank you for your generous support for Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting and praying and giving so families can put food on the table. Find out how your donations are helping to build a better world at **cafod.org.uk/thankyou**
PS It's not too late to donate – pick up a CAFOD envelope in the Foyer or visit cafod.org.uk/envelope

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 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.

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.

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

NOAH BLUE BINS: Available to accept donations at Sacred Heart next weekend **14th/15th March**. Please donate your good quality, preloved items to help others in need.

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.**

FORMING CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERS: Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. Six 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character. **www.christianleadershipformation.com (See Poster on the Noticeboard.)**

BOOKCASES: Three large, good quality, bookcases for sale. Make an offer! Money received to go towards Lenten Project. Bookcases available to view in the garage (by appointment). Please speak to Maurice.

LEGION OF MARY – PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD PRIORY: Saturday 9th May 2026
Cost: Adult £20 Child £12 - Coach: Sacred Heart 8.45am Saturday 9th May 2026
(Alternative pick-up times and places – see Poster on the Noticeboard.)
All seats must be confirmed and payment received by Tuesday 28th April 2026. Payments to be forwarded to Judy Weekes. Contact Judy Weekes via Sacred Heart Parish Office 01582 723099 or via Wesley Weekes 01582 738569 or 07549 996123

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 01.03.2026: Envelopes £725.20; Loose Cash £315.89; Total £1041.09 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:
Mark Trowsdale 2014; Thomas Hyland 1982; Maria Munez 1982; Elizabeth Anne Murray 'Lizzie' 2022; Robert McMillen 1994; Elizabeth Mary Brogan 2014; John Stanton 1969; Baby Kevin Hynes 1975; Patrick Nolan 1990; Charles Drein 2001; Titus Abernethy 2006; Kathleen West 2002; Peter Albert McGarry 2008; Carmel Harte 2019; Juana Wyett 2021; Robert McDermott 1974; Alice Jepp 1978; Joseph Keegan 2003; John James Doran 2015; Nelson Walter Gallyot 2016; Pauline Mooney 1995; Baby Rebecca Mooney 1995; Lisa Marie Nora Doran 2013; Gerard Crossin 2012; Patrick Cyril Carroll 1973; James Birtwistle 1991; James McCaffrey 1998; Joseph Harbud 2000; Augustine Hynes 2007; Maralaine Cooper 2010; Michael (Mick) McCafferty 2018; James Francis O'Donoghue 2025; Richard Connell 1993; Richard McCleod 2014; Simon William Comerford 2025✠ **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).