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 22nd March 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Psalter Week 1

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.**

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Allan R. Jones, CRIC, M.A., MTh.
Parish Deacon: Rev James Bannan (On Sabbatical)
Parish Secretary: Bernadette Horsted

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Parish Office: parish.sacredheartofjesus@northamptondiocese.org
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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 21st March	**10.00am** 5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	**ACIES Legion of Mary Mass** Evening Prayer Confessions Mary & John Walsh RIP	
Sunday 22nd March **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish William O'Reilly RIP (2nd Anniversary)	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
Monday 23rd March	9.30am **CHURCH 2.00pm-3.00pm**	Dalia Clifford Pantin RIP **Sacred Heart Primary School – Easter Production**	
Tuesday 24th March	9.30am	Colin Cater RIP **PRAYER GROUP**: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond	
Wednesday 25th March	9.30am **CHURCH 2.00pm-3.00pm** **5.00pm-6.00pm** **PARISH HALL 7.30-9.00pm**	Gloria Keegan RIP **Sacred Heart Primary School - Easter Production** **Sacred Heart Primary School - Easter Production** **Open Meeting – Discernment Process**	**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
Thursday 26th March	**9.30am-10.30am** **11.00am**	**Confessions** **REQUIEM: GLORIA KEEGAN**	
Friday 27th March	**6.30pm** **7.00pm** **Following 7pm Mass**	Evening Prayer Teresa While RIP **Stations of the Cross** **Confessions**	
Saturday 28th March	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm **Blessing of Palms 6.30pm**	Evening Prayer Confessions Margaret Borg RIP	
Sunday 29th March **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am **Blessing of Palms 11am** **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Maria, Don & Christopher Hamilton RIP	**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

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 this week on Thursday morning 9.30am-10.30am and after Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8.30am 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: 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 Gloria Keegan (wife of John Keegan), Margaret O'Brien (Sister of Pat and Steve Howell), John Harkin, Anne O'Boyle (nee Coyle) (Sister of Joe Coyle) and Catherine Henry, who died recently. Please keep Gloria, Margaret, John, Anne and Catherine in your prayers and keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: 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.

BLESSING OF PALMS – PALM SUNDAY: Palms will be blessed next weekend at the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 28th March and also at the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 29th March. Palms already blessed at 6.30pm Mass will be available for the 9.00am Mass.

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.

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 this weekend **Saturday 21st March/Sunday 22nd March** will take place to raise funds to facilitate the installation of a Bleed Kit Cabinet.

THURSDAY CLUB: Closed for the Easter Break and will reopen on Thursday 16th April. Thank you to all the volunteers who work together to provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to socialise over a cup of tea or coffee, enjoy a game of bingo and to just chat! The recent Easter lunch provided was well attended and enjoyed by all.

NEW WINESKINS DISCERNMENT PROCESS: The New Wineskins process began in March 2025. Later in the year we had listening groups across parishes, schools and Catholic organisations. A small group of local clergy and parishioners has been meeting regularly since then to reflect on the listening, together with data about the life of our communities, our finances and property.
As well as wanting to be a confident, visible Catholic community that shares the Good News with all, the group recognise that there is a need to plan for fewer priests into the future, as well as significant repair costs for our properties. There are no easy answers, as well as real opportunities to work together more and build up our mission and community life. There were two open meetings at St Mary's Dunstable and St Martin de Pores. There will be a third opportunity to hear about the process so far **on Wed 25th March, 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Church**. All welcome. More information about the New Wineskins process can be found here: **https://northamptondiocese.org/pd-luton/**

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.

DEANERY PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Monday 30th March at Our Lady's 7.00pm.

CHRISM MASS: Please be aware that the Chrism Mass will take place on **Wednesday, 1st April with Mass at the Cathedral at midday. Lunch 1.00pm - Parishioners - St Thomas Centre.**

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).

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 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.

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

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.

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

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.

BIBLES – EUROPEAN LANGUAGES: The airport chaplaincy is interested in Bibles in European Languages. Luton Airport has flights all over Europe plus North Africa and the Near Middle East. They would be grateful if any Church felt able to provide Bibles in European Languages, if you have spare Bibles that you are not using, please pass them on to Fr Allan and he will pass them on to the Airport Chaplaincy.

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 15.03.2026: Envelopes £717.50; Loose Cash £401.79; Total £1119.29 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/**

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. Retrouvaille have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: **www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443**

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

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN OPPORTUNITY: Cardinal Newman Catholic School is an outstanding Catholic secondary school, seeking a committed and faith-filled Chaplain to join their vibrant school community. Cardinal Newman is a high-performing 11–18 school, placed in the top 25% nationally for both GCSE and A Level outcomes, where academic excellence sits alongside strong formation of character, faith and mission. It is the only Catholic secondary school in the Luton and Dunstable area, serving a richly diverse community, with strong and active parish links and close collaboration with clergy and local faith communities. The role is full time (term time + 5 days). For further information on how to apply, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact PA to Headteacher, Jade McKinlay on **jmckinlay@cardinalnewmanschool.net**

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.**

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

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 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.)

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Patrick (Paddy) Christopher Goldsboro 2021; Alexander Gordon Robinson 2020; Sophia Snook 2002; Margaret Lewis 1966; Bridget Chandler 1992; Mary Little 2007; Bridget Robinson 2010; Alan Stansfield 2022; Alice McManus 1966; Ilona Tojan 1994; Sergio Mareschi 2018; Roberta Mugione 2023; Edward O'Shea 1988; John Duffy 2000; Agnes Walsh 2003; Noel Francis (Frank) Flynn 2017; Barry Hood 2025; Brian Aspell 1983; Patrick Smyth 1999; Teresa Abbott 2006; Brian Richards 1994; Eileen Howell 2009; Valerie Irene Drakeley 2022
✠ **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).