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 11th January 2026
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

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 10th January	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Eamon & Mary McGovern RIP	**St Paul of Thebes, the first hermit**
Sunday 11th January **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees**	Morning Prayer Robert 'Bob' McDowell RIP People of Our Parish	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
Monday 12th January	9.30am	Holy Souls	**First week of ordinary time Psalter Week 1**
Tuesday 13th January	9.30am	Holy Souls **PRAYER GROUP**: Prayer for our needs, those of the Parish and beyond	
Wednesday 14th January	9.30am	Nora O'Donoghue RIP	
Thursday 15th January	**10.00am** **10.00am-12Noon**	**REQUIEM: MARY ENRIGHT RIP** **THURSDAY CLUB**	
Friday 16th January	9.30am	Holy Souls	
Saturday 17th January	5.45pm 6.00pm-6.20pm 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Confessions Geraldine Bonner RIP (1st Anniversary)	**St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot**
Sunday 18th January **PARISH HALL**	8.30am 9.00am 11.00am **Teas and Coffees** **BAPTISM** **3.00pm**	Morning Prayer People of Our Parish Geoffrey O'Brien RIP (30th Anniversary) **Maya Ashley** **BETHANY MASS (St Joseph's Church, Luton)**	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **Peace Sunday**

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

CONFESSION: Confessions are available 6.00pm - 6.20pm every Saturday or by appointment.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 8.50am followed by Rosary – All welcome.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY: For prayer with the Word of God
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary 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.

RIP: Please remember Mary Theresa Philomena Enright, Margaret Talbot (Sister to John McDonnell) and Charlotte Maguire who died recently. Please keep Mary, Margaret and Charlotte in your prayers and keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this very sad and difficult time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: Mary Theresa Philomena Enright, **Requiem Thursday 15th January at 10.00am** at Sacred Heart.

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.

RIP FIRST ANNIVERSARY: Geraldine Bonner RIP: Please remember Geraldine in your prayers and keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they lovingly gather at Sacred Heart to honour Geraldine on her first anniversary.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: Please pick up and complete a form in the Foyer to show your availability to read at your preferred Mass time attendance. Thank you. Completed forms to be returned to the Parish Office.

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 **every Thursday 10.00am-12 Noon**. All welcome!

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 5th March at 7.00pm, Thursday 4th June at 7.00pm and Thursday 1st September at 7.00pm.** Please make sure you have registered as a parishioner with the Parish through the CASPAR link.

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).

NOAH BLUE BINS: Please note NOAH Blue Bins will be available to accept donations at Sacred Heart this weekend **10th/11th January**. Please donate your good quality, preloved items to help others in need.

NYMO LEARNING COMMUNITY ONLINE: NYMO hosts online sessions once a term for all those involved in leading the youth in the diocese, called the Learning Community Online. They are for leaders to come together to learn, to share, to swap ideas, and connect with each other. Whether you are a catechist, a youth group leader, a chaplain, or wanting to get involved in leading the next generation, these sessions are for you. The next online call is on the 14th January at 7.30pm and will be all about leading young people in prayer. If you're interested in attending this session, or want to find out more about these and other ways NYMO supports youth leaders, please visit: **nymo.org/diocesan-youth-leaders or contact Rebekah from the NYMO team (rebekah.gray@northamptondiocese.org)**

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 – **next session Wednesday 14th January 2026** – Ordinary Time up to Ash Wednesday.
Future sessions in 2026: Wednesday 11th February, 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 the Poster displayed on the Noticeboard.

BETHANY MASS: Please note there is a change of venue for the next Bethany Mass. Mass will take place at **St Joseph's Church, Gardenia Avenue, Luton LU3 2NS** on **Sunday 18th January 2026 at 3.00pm.** Refreshments in St Joseph's Parish Hall afterwards. All welcome!

SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend 17th/18th January there will be a second collection at all Masses in aid of **Peace Sunday**.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERINGS/DONATIONS: The Christmas Crib Offerings/Donations (for Christmas 2025 until Candlemas 2nd February 2026) will go towards supporting NOAH. Your offering/donation can help NOAH to change a life by providing someone to talk to, clean clothes and something to eat for those facing homelessness.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: If you have any unused or no longer required good quality Christmas decorations then please feel free to donate them to Sacred Heart Church for future use. Items can be handed in to the Parish Office 12th/14th/16th January during Office hours 10.00am-12 Noon. Thank you.

SUNDAY of the WORD of GOD – 25th January 2026: "The word of Christ dwells among you" (Colossians 3:16). The Dicastery for Evangelisation has prepared a series of resources that are available at: **evangelisatio.va/content/pcpne/en/parola/2026**
Celebrating the Sunday – our Liturgy at the Cathedral 3pm with reflections by Fr Jerome Ituah OCD and commissioning of readers to proclaim the Word. Booklet available on the diocesan website. Follow the liturgy on the livestream.
Going one step further – **Saturday 31st January 11am-3.00pm** - A day for readers to reflect and share at Holy Ghost Centre, Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD. Refreshments will be available.

SING THE SEASON, LENT 2026: The latest event in the Northampton Diocese Music Liturgy series, offering new and seasonal music alongside fresh ideas for the Lenten season. Designed for cantors, choir leaders, singers, and musicians.

- **Date & Time: Saturday, 24th January 2026, 11am – 4pm**
- **Location: St Aidan's Catholic Church, Finch Lane, Little Chalfont, Amersham (HP7 9NE)**
- What to bring: Packed lunch, voice, and instruments (tea and coffee provided)
- Cost: Free (suggested donation £5 to support future events)

Further details: https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/sing-the-season-lent-2026/

JOURNEY WITH JESUS THROUGH LENT: During Lent, the Pastoral Development Vicariate is offering the opportunity for online small group sessions once a week for 6 weeks beginning w.c. 16th February. During each weekly small group session, facilitators will be using St Beuno's Outreach Prego resources, allowing you to pray and reflect on Scripture for the coming Sunday. Within the session, there will also be time for silent reflection and sharing what spoke to you from Scripture. Sessions will be available on various days and times.
To find out more information and to sign-up to our introductory webinar on Tuesday 27th January, 7:30pm, visit our diocesan website: **https://northamptondiocese.org/lenten-journey/**

LUTON FOODBANK: Wish to express thanks to Sacred Heart Parish, 'Your support continues to make a real difference to individuals and families across Luton, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year ahead.' Foodbank Newsletter available to read, please visit: **https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk/luton-foodbank-newsletter-december-2025/**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: 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 Office 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!**

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

PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION: Figures for w/e 04.01.2026: Envelopes £619.70; Loose Cash £413.39; Total £1033.09 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/**

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. BELONG: When? 13-15th February 2026; Where? 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.admin@northamptondiocese.com to find out more.

SAFEGUARDING SURVEY FOR THE YOUTH: The diocesan Safeguarding team is looking at how young people perceive safeguarding and how they receive information from a diocesan level. They want to know how we can communicate better so if you are aged 11 to 18, please take 5 minutes to complete a few questions using this link, or by scanning the QR code displayed on the Noticeboard.
Northampton Diocese Safeguarding Feedback 2025 - Youth – Fill in form

THE ASCENT: Are you 16-18 and looking to grow in your faith? Then you need to know about The Ascent. The Ascent is a one-of-a-kind process of discipleship run by volunteers across the UK for people in school years 10-12. It partners with organisations like NYMO to bring young people together to learn about their faith and grow in relationship with Jesus. There are three parts to the process:

- 3 residential weekends per year providing opportunities for teaching and formation in the Catholic faith, encounter with Jesus Christ, personal prayer, and envisioning of your next steps.
- Weekly 'PoDs' (Pockets of Disciples) which are small groups who meet together online for friendship and formation.
- Monthly 1:1 mentoring giving you a space to talk, process, and get support from a trained member of the team.

Contact NYMO (NYMO@northamptondiocese.com) or visit their website to find out more (nymo.org/the-ascent-2). There are only 6 places left for the 2026 group so don't miss out!

RIP ANNIVERSARIES: Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Giuseppe Cacioppo 2021; James Owens 1962; Francis McLaughlin 2012; Benjamin James Daly; John Harley 1991; Gabriella Tammaro 1995; Rita Funtek 2008; Geraldine Bonner 2025; Patrick Nally 1987; Baby Robert Barratt 1983; David Aikins 1995; Desmond Whittaker 1994; John Hanrahan 2023; David Knox 1962; Alan Patrick Howard 2013; Sylvia Margaret Hubert 2015; Fiona Johnson 1969; Andres Solice 1977; Pauline Johnson 2009; Ambrose (Gerry) Breslin 2013
✠ **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)