



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to St Martin's

CHARITY CLOTHING SALE – All brand new items, on **TODAY (Sunday)** after the 11am Mass, in aid of **CAFFE**.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY 3 MARCH
Join with the women of the Philippines for a World Wide day of Prayer. Services taking place at **Sacred Heart Church Ashcroft Road 11am; Salvation Army Vicarage Street 2pm** and **Holy Family Freshwater Close 7.30pm**. *All welcome - Men, Women and Children.*

THE REPOSITORY will be closed this weekend. If items are needed for special occasions they can be ordered next weekend. Come and take the opportunity to look through our new catalogues.

DATE FOR DIARIES – Friday 17th March is St Patrick's Day. At the Irish Forum from 11am to 4pm, a selection of Irish music and dancing. 19th March parade into the town centre starts at 11am prompt from the Irish Forum. See poster and flyers for route details.

KEECH HOSPICE WALK – Saturday 25th March. For more details visit www.keech.org.uk or see Anne Mead

VOCATIONS WEEKEND – The Diocese of Northampton will be holding a vocations weekend for men who would like to explore a vocation to the Priesthood. The weekend will be held here at the Cathedral from the 7th – 9th April. Accommodation will be provided. For more details please contact Fr Mark at the Cathedral on 01604 714556. Please remember our students and those attending the weekend in your prayers.

NEW SUNDAY ROTAS for readers and minsters of Communion may be found in the porch.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES – These are available for £3 each. The directory is a year book from our diocese, and includes all the contact details and Mass times of all the parishes.

NEXT CONFIRMATION CLASS – Thursday 9th March 7:15pm

NEXT FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS – Fri 10th March, 5:30pm (Group 1) and Sat 11th March, 11am (Group 2)



YOUCAT YOUTH (14+) - pre-Lenten get together this **Monday 27 February** with pizza and a film, **Starting at the earlier time of 6:30pm** so we don't finish too late with the film. The plan is for the evening to conclude c. 9pm.

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2017

Sat 6:30pm	James Kissane
9:00am	Alice Carlin Nugent, Int.
11.00am	Holy Souls

Monday – Feria

9:00am	Maureen Minehane, RIP
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Tuesday – Feria

9:00am	Sioby Padre (birthday)
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Wednesday – Ash Wednesday – Day of Fasting

9:00am	Noreen McGinnell, RIP
7:30pm	Michael Logue, RIP

Thursday – Weekday of Lent

<u>6:30pm</u>	Joseph D'Cruz
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Friday – Weekday of Lent

9:00am	Mary Raphael Chakkery, RIP
<u>6:30pm</u>	Stations of the Cross

Saturday – Weekday of Lent

<u>10:00am</u>	Annie Doherty, RIP
10:30-11:00am	Confessions & Adoration
5:30pm-6:00pm	Confessions

Next Week – First Sunday of Lent

Sat 6:30pm	The People of the Parish
9:00am	Margaret Foley, RIP
11:00am	Patricia Carr, RIP

Charismatic Prayer Group: Friday 7:30pm in the Lady Chapel.

Legion of Mary: Friday 7:30pm in the Hall.

Lunch Club: Friday 11:30am in the Hall.

LENT 2017

AT ST MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH – MASS AT 9AM AND 7:30PM

- ❖ **MONDAYS OF LENT 7:15PM.** All are invited to watch **Catholicism: The Pivotal Players DVDS** presented by Bishop Robert Barron. The first episode is about St Francis of Assisi on **Monday 6th March**.
See pivotalplayers.wordonfire.org for previews!
- ❖ **WEDNESDAYS OF LENT 9AM.** There will be an additional weekly Mass thanks to Fr Peter Maher.
- ❖ **FRIDAYS OF LENT 6:30PM.** Stations of the Cross will be prayed each week.
- ❖ **FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB 11:30 onwards** in aid of CAFOD.
- ❖ **SATURDAYS OF LENT.** Confessions are at 10:30am and 5:30pm. **Adoration** is from **10:30am-11:00am**.
 - **Friday 10th March.** CAFOD Lenten Fast Day.
 - **Monday 10th April 7pm** The deanery Reconciliation Service with all the priests of Luton at St Joseph's.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My letter to you this weekend is to encourage you to join with me positively as we prepare to enter the season of Lent. This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence. As ashes are imposed on our foreheads, we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are called to repent and believe in the Gospel.

In the readings at this Sunday Mass we heard that God never forgets us, that we are Christ's servants, and that we cannot be servants both of Christ and of money.

God never forgets us, and God never stops loving us. But do we really believe that? We can be all too conscious of failure, of weakness, and of sinfulness. Because of our lifestyle, the emphasis on money, and the pull all around us to forget God, we feel unworthy to be Christ's servants, and unable to open ourselves up to God's loving and forgiving embrace.

Yet, the Good News we are called to believe is that our God is a God of mercy and compassion. That is our faith, and that is what we should be reflecting in all that we do and say in our parishes this Lent. Sinners, like you and me, should feel welcome and given the confidence to turn back to God. Then we can celebrate happily the Sacrament of Penance and fulfil our Easter duties. Pope Francis speaks of generating "a culture of mercy". This is the task we can undertake in our communities this Lent as we make space for prayer, for acts of self-denial and almsgiving, and for reaching out to those in need.

None of us likes to be a failure whether we are a bishop or someone homeless on the street. Yet how many of us feel that we are failures even though we appear able to cope? That is why a "culture of mercy" is so important in your parish or school. Then we can accompany one another in turning back to Christ. We can be confident in inviting people on the edge of our family or of our community to join us on the constant journey of repenting and being converted.

In many parishes you will be accompanying and praying for people in the final weeks of their journey into the Catholic Church this Easter. But that is not the end of our life's journey, a journey that continues until we enter the kingdom of God.

So, we continue to pray for one another and accompany one another. That accompaniment includes supporting our priests in taking on responsibilities in the pastoral service of the community.

As you can hear, I am stressing God's mercy and the importance of supporting one another in our journey through Lent to the celebration of the Easter mysteries and beyond. May I urge you to be positive in your outlook this Lent and to give time to pray with real faith and with real belief.

There are obstacles to a positive attitude. One of those obstacles can be the news we hear or see or read. The media quite rightly calls us to account, and wrongs done in the name of the Church must be put right. But that necessary process can undermine faith and obscure all the good that you, the priests and people, do in the service of Christ. Keep going, trusting in the God who never forgets us.

So, as we prepare for the season of Lent, be positive and support and accompany one another and those on the edges that our faith in Jesus Christ, who has died and who is risen, may be deeply real and active, and attractive to those who do not know him.

Let us pray that, through a steadfast observance of Lent, we may gain pardon for sins and newness of life.

With every blessing,



Bishop of Northampton

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading - Isaiah 49:14-15

I will never forget you.

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

Responsorial Psalm - 61:2-3, 6-9.

In God alone is my soul at rest.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The Lord will reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts.

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes; he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Matthew 6:24-34

Do not worry about tomorrow.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

Thank you to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Charlotte Seery & Roy Boxall

Next Week: Anne Mead & Diane Casey

Thank you to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Sheila, Betty, Anne & Mary

Next Week: Charismatic Prayer Group

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

Collection: Sunday 19th February - **£952.68**