



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday

Welcome to St Martin's

THIS SUNDAY - EVC Uganda Appeal.

This weekend, Judi Fawcett will speak to us during all Masses about the work of EVC. EVC stands for Empowering Vulnerable Children. This charity works with some of the poorest children in the world in order to take them out of hopeless poverty and provide them with real hope for the future through education.

EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION -Next Sunday, the second collection will be for flowers for our Easter celebrations.

MOTHERING SUNDAY - We pray for all mothers today. We ask the Lord to bless them with his loving care, both those living and those who have gone to their rest,

VEILING OF STATUES - During the last two weeks of Lent we traditionally cover our statues. This will take place at **11:05am** next **Saturday 1st April**.

SERVING REHEARSAL - Holy Week is fast approaching, and we need a rehearsal for our servers. This will take at **2:00pm** on **Saturday 8th April**. Would all altar servers who would like to take part in serving over Holy Week please attend.

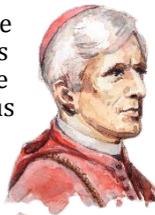
HELP FEED THE HUNGRY OF LUTON - Please bring non-perishable food items to be taken to NOAH.

THE VINE - is freely available in the porch including pictures of four of our parishioners on page 2.

THIS MONDAY'S DVD at 7:15pm in the Hall

Blessed John Henry Newman - The Convert

Is there any truth in matters of religion? Should the Church simply retreat in the face of the challenges of culture? John Henry Newman came into the Church as a convert and used his prodigious intellectual gifts to help the Church better understand its identity and mission and engage the challenges of a secular age.



LUTON DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICE

on 10th April at St Joseph's, Gardenia Avenue (Monday of Holy Week) with many priests available.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday we will once again be joining with St Hugh's Church and other Christians in the area for our annual Walk of Witness.

We gather at **9:50am** at St Hugh's, continuing to Dominic Square for **10:30am**. We will conclude here at St Martin's at **11:15am** followed by Hot Cross buns in the hall.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. third time... grant us peace.

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2017

Sat 6:30pm	Paddy & Tom Walsh, RIP
9:00am	The People of the Parish
11.00am	J.T.Esuai koh, RIP

Monday - Weekday of Lent

9:00am	Colm Dowd Jr.
7:15pm	DVD: Blessed John Henry Newman

Tuesday - Weekday of Lent

9:00am	Neil & Sean Doherty, RIP
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Wednesday - Weekday of Lent

9:00am	Lorna Martins, RIP
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Thursday - Weekday of Lent

6:30pm	Douglas O. Terrado, RIP
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Friday - Weekday of Lent

9:00am	Fr Neville's intentions
12:30pm	Mass in the Hospital Chapel
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross

Saturday - Weekday of Lent

10:00am	Charles Treacy, RIP
10:30-11:00am	Confessions & Adoration
5:30pm-6:00pm	Confessions

Next Week - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sat 6:30pm	Joe & Ellie Sheridan, RIP
9:00am	Tony Devlin, RIP
11:00am	The People of the Parish

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.

NEXT CONFIRMATION CLASS - Thurs 30th March 7:15pm

NEXT FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS - Fri 21st April 5:30pm (Group 1) and Sat 22nd April, 11am (Group 2)

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

David is anointed king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm - 22(23)

*The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

*I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who believes in me will have the light of life.*

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel - John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

He went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Word this Week

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on thirst for water, and this week there are passages all about light - true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was "neophyte", which means "newly enlightened" There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - 'no evil would I fear' as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being 'anointed' with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 13th April: 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with watching until midnight.

Good Friday 14th April: AM - Walk of Witness from St Hugh's to St Martin's via Dominic Square. **3:00pm** Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord. **7:30pm** - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday 15th April: 8:30pm Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection.

Easter Sunday 16th April: 9:00am and 11:00am Easter Mass of the Lord's Resurrection.

Thank you to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Charlotte & Roy

Next Week: Anne Mead & Diane Casey

Thank you to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Sheila, Betty, Anne & Mary

Next Week: Charismatic Prayer Group

Useful Contact Details

+ Charlotte Seery (Parish Secretary)

secretary@stmartindeporeschurch.org.uk

+ **Parish Hall Bookings:** Contact Maura on 01582 724623
between 6pm-8pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

Collection: Sunday 19th March - **£955.79**