



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OLIVEWOOD SALE TODAY (SUNDAY) – Welcome back to our friends from the Community Partnership Association who will be selling handmade items from the Holy Land in the porch after Mass.

NEW ROTAS – may be found on the small noticeboard in the porch (near the hymn books).

LUCY BRAJKOVIC RIP – Lucy’s funeral Mass will take place on **Thursday 27th July at 12:30pm**. NB: change of date.

ST HUGH’S - Our friends from the local Church of England community are celebrating 50 years. As part of the celebration, they are holding a **Community Cultural Diversity Day** on Saturday 22nd July from 1-6pm. This is an opportunity to promote community cohesion. They write:

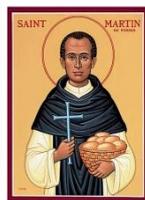
“We are inviting you and other groups to come and showcase food, music, costumes and story-telling. In the light of all that is happening in this country, it is crucial we come together to tell a different story – one of love, friendship and mutual respect.”

Please see the poster on the noticeboard – if you would like to showcase your culture, you can book a table with Sylvia on 07773 119085.

SAVE THE DATE - *Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life*, Sunday 17th September. Adults £15, children & students £7. For more information please see poster. Contact details: 01582 581917 / 07789 243 453 / c.bolam2@ntlworld.com.

The annual **CANON O’LEARY MEMORIAL MASS** held for people with Special Needs and their families and carers takes place on Saturday 16th September 2017 at St Dominic Primary School Southdown Road Harpenden AL5 1PF. 2.30pm Mass, 3pm Tea party/picnic. The event is usually finished by 5pm. Everyone is welcome. So we have an idea of numbers, please RSVP to Ruth Webb on [01582 467989](tel:01582467989) or reply by email to ruth_dave@btinternet.com.

TUESDAY 15th AUGUST – Holy day – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Masses at 9am and 7:30pm.



Altar Servers Mass, Pizza & Film evening

To celebrate the service of our superb team of altar servers, we will meet on the evening of **Tuesday 8th August 2017**. If you have served over the last 12 months, please see Fr Michael for a letter and reply slip to take part.

SUNDAY 16th JULY 2017

Sat 6:30pm	The People of the Parish
9:00am	Kathleen Henry, Int.
11.00am	Bernadette Simpson, RIP
Monday – Feria	
9:00am	Eileen Lana Burford, RIP
Tuesday – Feria	
9:00am	Fr Neville McClement, Ints.
<i>Wednesday – No Mass Today</i>	
Thursday – Feria	
6:30pm	Shibu family
Friday – Feria	
9:00am	People of St Martin’s Parish
Saturday – ST MARY MAGDALENE	
10:00am	Mary Raphael Chakkery, RIP
10:30-11:00am	Confessions & Adoration
11:00am-1:30pm	Legion of Mary Retreat Morning
5:30pm-6:00pm	Confessions
Next Week – 16th Sunday of the Year	
Sat 6:30pm	Fred Daly, RIP
9:00am	Maura Fahy, Int.
11:00am	The People of the Parish
Charismatic Prayer Group: <u>Friday 7:30pm</u> in the Lady Chapel.	
Legion of Mary: <u>Friday 7:30pm</u> in the Hall.	
Lunch Club: <u>Fridays 11:30am</u> onwards.	

NORTHAMPTON
development



CATHEDRAL
campaign

Father Mark Floody is delighted to share with us that due to recent gifts and pledges received, the Cathedral development campaign total has reached over £2.29m. This includes donations from the Cathedral community, parishes like ours, local supporters and grant-making trusts.

For further information about the project and how you can lend your support, if you haven’t done so already, please visit the Cathedral website at <http://northamptoncathedral.org/the-cathedral/cathedral-centre>

where you can watch a video presentation about the proposed Cathedral Centre.

The Campaign Office is based in Bishop’s House and Angela Madge, the Campaign Administrator, will be happy to hear from you.

Angela can be contacted on 01604 712065 or via email: cathedralcampaign@northamptondiocese.com

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading – Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm – 64(65):10-14 resp. Lk 8:8

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

Second Reading – Romans 8:18-23

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 13:1-9

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their

crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Word this Week

The Gospel today is the beginning of a new section in Matthew, called 'The Parabolic Discourse' - a section of parables Jesus tells the crowd, which we will read over the next three weeks. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning: we can easily remember the story, and gradually the true meaning becomes clearer and clearer. Today is a famous example: the Parable of the Sower. In itself it is a story that would easily be understood by Jesus' audience - people who lived in an agricultural economy. Jesus uses their understanding to make an important teaching about the message he has brought: it is like a seed that is thrown out and received in different ways - the ideal is when the seed finds good soil, and produces a crop that can be seen and harvested: so the ideal listener to the word is one who allows it to lodge in the heart, but also produces a visible result. What is the harvest we should yield, when we have heard the word?

Thanks to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Team 2: Abiola, Linda & Clara

Next Week: Team 3: Josephine & Tabitha

Thanks to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Team 5: Margaret, Mary & Linda

Next Week: Team 1: Sheila, Betty, Anne & Mary

Useful Contact Details

+ Charlotte Seery (Parish Secretary)

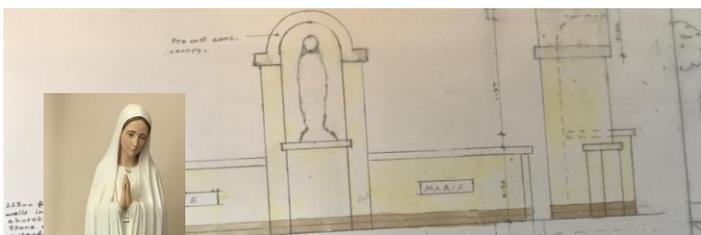
secretary@stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS

Collection: Sunday 9th July – £869.85

Apostleship of the Sea - £185.87



PRAYER GARDEN PROGRESS

On May 13th we blessed the ground ready for our new grotto. The blueprint was made. The 48" statue of Our Lady of Fatima has arrived (pictured). The (very heavy) crowning arch has been beautifully designed and a manufacturer identified. The bricks and cement are on

order. Initial preparation is taking place during the week and digging begins on Saturday morning. Spare time has been pledged for works by our skilled planning team, all of whom come from among our parishioners. The project is coming together!

Bishop Peter has accepted our invitation to preside at Mass on the Feast of St Martin de Porres, Friday 3rd November 2017 (7:30pm). On this occasion, he will bless the completed grotto. Please put the date in your diary!