



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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First Sunday of Advent [Year B]

Welcome to St Martin's

Today is 'new year' in the Church. Advent brings the beginning of a new season, a joyful season of preparation, repentance and hope. We remember that for thousands of years there was no Christmas – because the Messiah had not yet come. The Advent season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.



THIS WEEKEND – we will be listening to a DVD message from Bishop Peter.

The Bishop will be speaking about a number of things but, in particular, he will be urging us to use Advent as a season of preparation.

He will be reflecting on developments in the 'Walking Humbly with our God' process and he will be launching a 'Year of Prayer and Vocation'.

THE NEXT CHCF MASS for those with Special Needs is TODAY, 3pm at St. Joseph's.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – Please take a tag – buy the item, wrap and return. All gifts for the homeless. Thank you!

SITUATION VACANT – Midday supervisor role. See: <http://www.stmartindeporesluton.co.uk/job-vacancies/>

ACT OF WITNESS in support of life outside the L & D hospital on **Saturday 9th December** from 1pm to 2pm.

MARRIAGE COURSE – Saturday 24th February 2018 at St Joseph's, Gardenia Avenue. Book now if you are marrying in 2018 or later. It is compulsory whether you are marrying here or anywhere else (e.g. abroad).

RAFFLE TICKETS... are on sale this weekend, for our Christmas Prize Draw! They cost 50p each, or £2 for a book of 5.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER... tickets (£7.50) are on sale for the dinner next **Sunday 10th December**.

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2017

Sat 6:30pm	Liam Spillane, RIP
9:00am	Ron Curtis, RIP
11:00am	The People of the Parish
Monday – Advent Feria	
9:00am	Michael Joseph O'Sullivan, RIP
extra Mass 7:00pm	Andrea Paul (success in exams)
7:30pm	Meeting of hospital visitors
Tuesday – Advent Feria	
9:00am	Henryk Baran, Ints
Wednesday – St Nicholas	
6:30pm	Shibu family
7:00-7:30pm	Adoration & Confessions
Thursday – St Ambrose	
9:00am	Martin Parrett (In Thanks)
FRIDAY – NO MASS TODAY	
SATURDAY – CONFESSIONS AT 5:30PM	
SATURDAY – MASS AT 6:30PM	
Next Sunday – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Sat 6:30pm	Joseph Kurian
9:00am	Nuala Hogan
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.	

RECONCILIATION SERVICE – At Holy Family, on **Monday 18th December at 7pm**. Several priests will be available to hear your Advent confession in advance of Christmas.

FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS (NOAH) – please put non-perishable food in the containers in the porch.

CHRISTMAS DAY 2017 – Alone this Christmas? Then why not come for dinner on 25th December in our hall. See poster on the hall noticeboard.

CAROL SERVICE – at Our Lady's – see poster in porch.

VACANCY



Parish Administrator – Here at St Martin de Porres, Luton (16 hours per week).

We are currently recruiting for the above position. For further details, visit the diocese's website:

www.northamptondiocese.org/vacancies.

The closing date for applications will be **Friday 15th December 2017**.

This Sunday's Readings

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: *Oh that you would tear the*



heavens open and come down! is the cry, of a people who need God. ...*The master is coming* is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!



First Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come
down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm – 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19
*GOD OF HOSTS, BRING US BACK; LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.*

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have
been enriched in so many ways, especially in your
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed
been strong among you so that you will not be without
any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you
steady and without blame until the last day, the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*LET US SEE, O LORD, YOUR MERCY
AND GIVE US YOUR SAVING HELP.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Mark 13:33-37

*Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of
the house is coming.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when the time will come. It is
like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home,
and left his servants in charge, each with his own task;
and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay
awake, because you do not know when the master of the
house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if
he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Thanks to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Team 4: Breda & Anne

Next Week: Team 5: Charlotte & Roy

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 26th November – **£977.36**

2nd Collection for Sick & Retired Clergy – **£267.28**