



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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Third Sunday of Advent [Year B]

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly. Come and teach us the way of prudence.

A Big Thank You



...to the whole team – the cooks and young people serving – who worked very hard for many hours to make such a success of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner last Sunday!

Thanks to all who were able to make it to the dinner in spite of the wintry weather.

If the snow stopped you coming, then read on...

FRIDAY CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER – will take place on **Friday 5th January – 12:30-3:00pm**. All welcome – those who missed the Senior Citizens dinner due to wintry weather are welcome to come free of charge. Or else the usual costs apply. Please contact Charlotte on 07883 848269 to book in.

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent – but also Christmas Eve! This means Catholics are obliged to attend Mass twice (although Father will be celebrating seven!) There are different ways of fulfilling both obligations:

- Saturday evening & any Christmas Mass
- Sunday morning & any Christmas Mass
- Sunday evening & Monday morning

CHRISTMAS CLEANING – could volunteers 'spruce' up the Church a little after next Sunday's 11am Mass?

CRIB & TREE – Thanks to those who have agreed to carry out those tasks. YFC will be doing the crib and Maureen Malone will coordinate the tree decoration after

REPOSITORY IS OPEN AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES.

THE VINE – December's issue is freely available including Bishop Peter's Christmas Message.

RORATE MASS by Candlelight in honour of Our Lady. Holy Ghost, Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD on **Friday 15th December 2017** at 6.30am

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – will be kindly donated by the family of James Dunne RIP this year.

RAFFLE DRAW AFTER 11AM MASS! PLEASE RETURN YOUR TICKETS ASAP TO THE HALL! *Many thanks for the generous donations of Raffle Prizes.*

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION – Envelopes for the Christmas offertory may be found in the porch. The collection at all the Christmas Masses is in support of your Parish Priest. *Many thanks for your generosity.*

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2017

Sat 6:30pm	The People of the Parish
9:00am	Christopher Malone, RIP
11:00am	Jim Seery, RIP
Monday – O Sacred Lord	
9:00am	Betty Milton, RIP
Tuesday – O Root of Jesse	
9:00am	Trinidad Bayron, RIP
Wednesday – O Key of David	
6:30pm	Kathleen Hogan, RIP
7:00-7:30pm	Adoration & Confessions
Thursday – O Radiant Dawn	
9:00am	Thresima Mathew
FRIDAY – NO MASS TODAY	
SATURDAY – CONFESSIONS 5:30PM – 6:00PM	
SATURDAY – MASS AT 6:30PM	

Next Sunday – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 6:30pm	The People of the Parish
9:00am	Patrick Devlin, RIP
11:00am	Amelia Ledwidge, RIP

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

24th/25th December

Mass at 6:30pm	Contreras family intentions
11:30pm	Carols and Readings
Mass at Midnight	Catherine & Patrick Browne, RIP
Mass at 9am	Eileen Lana Burford, RIP
Mass at 11am	Calignawan family intentions



Advent Penitential Service – Monday 18th December at 7.00pm at Holy Family Church
24 Freshwater Cl, Luton LU3 3TA



This Sunday's Readings

First Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
 for the Lord has anointed me.
 He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
 to bind up hearts that are broken;
 to proclaim liberty to captives,
 freedom to those in prison;
 to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
 'I exult for joy in the Lord,
 my soul rejoices in my God,
 for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
 he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
 like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
 like a bride adorned in her jewels.
 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
 as a garden makes seeds spring up,
 so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
 spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial 'Psalm' – Luke 1:46-50,53-54

MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
 He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – John 1:6-8,19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

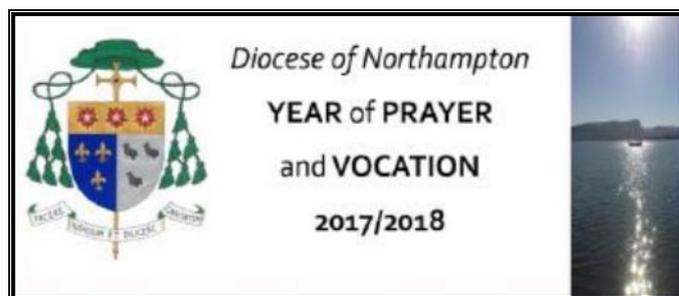
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Thanks to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Team 6: Anne Jephcott & Diane Casey

Next Week: Team 1: Anne Mead & John Jephcott

Thanks to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Team 2: Charismatic Prayer Group

Next Week: Team 3: Michael, Benedicta & Elizabeth

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 10th December – **£737.93 (snow!)**