



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

Fr Michael Patey • 366 Leagrave High Street • Luton • LU4 0NG

01582 663706 • fathermichaelpatey@gmail.com

www.stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk

@stmartins1962

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2017

Sat 6:30pm	The People of the Parish
9:00am	Daniel & Elizabeth O'Leary, RIP
11:00am	Mrs Healy
Monday – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)	
<u>10:00am</u>	Calignawan family's intentions
Tuesday – SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazienzen	
9:00am	Jane & Peter Fielding, RIP
Wednesday – The Most Holy Name of Jesus	
<u>6:30pm</u>	Jason & Sarah, RIP
7:00-7:30pm	Adoration & Confessions
Thursday – Weekday of Christmas	
9:00am	Shibu family
FRIDAY – NO MASS TODAY	
SATURDAY – CONFESSIONS 5:30PM – 6:00PM	
SATURDAY – MASS AT 6:30PM	
Next Sunday – EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
Sat 6:30pm	Amelia Ledwidge, RIP
9:00am	The People of the Parish
11:00am	Friday lunch club volunteer team
Charismatic Prayer Group: Back on Friday 12th Jan.	
Legion of Mary: Back on Friday 12th Jan.	
Friday Lunch Club: Back on Friday 12th Jan.	

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Christmas! Amid life's challenges, may God's consolations be born in us this Christmastime. The celebration of the season continues until *The Baptism of the Lord* on Monday 8th January.

Thank you to everyone who served us this Christmas, both in the preparation of the Church and in the celebration of the liturgy.

My sincere gratitude for your greetings, and the many cards, thoughtful gifts and very generous Christmas offering. Your kindness brings much encouragement.

Every blessing for 2018,

Fr Michael

MASS ON MONDAY 1ST JANUARY – is at the later time of **10am**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS MEETINGS – Group 1 (Friday parents) meet with Fr Michael first, at **6pm** on **Monday 8th January**, followed by Group 2 (Saturday parents) at **7pm**.

LUTON DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSE – Will take place from 10-4 on **Sat 24th February 2018** at **St. Joseph's Parish Centre** If you are planning to marry this year, please contact the Presbytery to book by the end of January.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE – the funeral of Michael O'Donoghue will take place here on **Tuesday 9th January** at 10:30am. Please pray for his grieving family at this time.

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading - Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm - 104(105):1-6,8-9

HE, THE LORD, IS OUR GOD. HE REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOR EVER.

Second Reading - Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

The child grew, filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

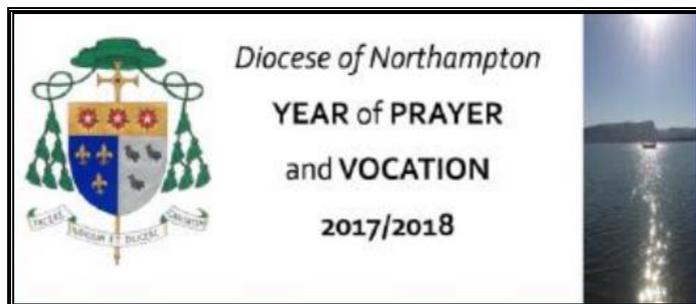
Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



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 4: Sunny, Clara, Charlotte & Paul

Next Week: Team 5: Margaret, Mary & Linda

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 24th December - TBA