



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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The Epiphany of the Lord

Happy New Year!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MASS & HOW WE WORSHIP TOGETHER – at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, this week 7.30-9pm – six Wednesday evenings from 10 January - You can do all or one or two or more as you wish. See leaflets in porch for information or contact NORES, or talk to Father Michael. It would be very valuable for all readers, Eucharistic ministers, servers, musicians, as well as everyone who comes to Mass. It is important to book.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SECOND COLLECTION... will be for *Pax Christi*, our national Catholic movement for peace. Envelopes are available on the table in the porch.

- From Pax Christi: *"The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace without fear or violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our lives to create communities of peace and justice."*

THE CHRISTMAS TREE – will come down after Mass on Monday morning.

THE CRIB – customarily remains as a place of devotion until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas).

- The traditional crib offerings will be donated to **Aid to the Church in Need**, who support poor parishes around the world.

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**. P to book by the end of January.

THE LEAGRAVE BRANCH OF COMHALTAS are hosting their Annual New Year session on Sunday 14 January 2018 from 3.00pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Luton.

In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the 'Time of Manifestation', or Showing. Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord." The same is true of the key word in the second reading: "Revelation". Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2018

Sat 6:30pm Amelia Ledwidge, RIP

9:00am The People of the Parish

11:00am Friday lunch club volunteer team

Monday – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9:00am Den & Kevin intentions

Tuesday – FERIA

10:30am Requiem: Michael O'Donoghue

Wednesday – FERIA [Ordinary Time week 1, readings year II]

6:30pm Dave & Roy intentions

7:00-7:30pm Adoration & Confessions

Thursday – FERIA

9:00am John Arnold, RIP

FRIDAY – NO MASS TODAY

SATURDAY – CONFESSIONS 5:30PM – 6:00PM

SATURDAY – MASS AT 6:30PM

Next Sunday – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 6:30pm Mary O'Reilly, Int.

9:00am Patrick 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: Fridays 11:30am onwards.



THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES – In memory of the wise men entering the house where Jesus was, there is an ancient tradition of praying for blessings on our homes on or near Epiphany. **All you need are the prayers and a piece of chalk** (*in the porch*), to mark the frame of your door with... **2 0 + C + M + B + 1 8** ...the traditional initials of the wise men (Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar) and this year's date. Perhaps spend a moment this Sunday asking God to bless your home and to be with all members of your household.

Moveable Feasts 2018

Ash Wednesday – **14th February**

Palm Sunday – **25th March**

Maundy Thursday – **29th March**

Good Friday – **30th March**

Holy Saturday – **31st March**

Easter Sunday – **1st April**

Pentecost Sunday – **20th May**

Advent Sunday – **2nd December**

Holy Days of Obligation 2018

All 52 Sundays

Ascension Day – **Thursday 10th May**

St Peter & St Paul – **Friday 29th June**

Assumption – **Wednesday 15th August**

All Saints – **Thursday 1st November**

[St Martin de Porres – **Saturday 3rd November**]

Christmas – **Tuesday 25th December**



This Sunday's Readings

First Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

*ALL NATIONS SHALL FALL PROSTRATE
BEFORE YOU, O LORD.*

Second Reading – Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit

to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

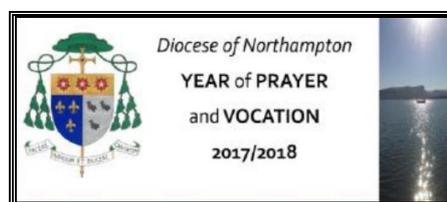
Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

We saw his star and have come to do the king homage.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.



Thanks to our Offertory Counters

This Week: Team 3: Josephine & Tabitha

Next Week: Team 4: Breda & Anne

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 24th December – **£973.26**

Collection: Sunday 3rd January – **£970.60**