

St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

Fr Simon Penhalagan, 366 Leagrave High Street • Luton • LU4 0NG 01582 663706 parishpriest@stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk smdp.luton@gmail.com www.stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk @stmartins1962

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2018 - Please see notice board for the full list of winning ticket numbers. Please collect prizes from the Sacristy this weekend.

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

MASS TIMES - please note, there is NOT a 9.30am Mass on Christmas Eve. family vigil Mass takes place at **6.30pm**.

FR JOE WILLIAMS, RIP - mass will be offered for the repose of Fr Joes' soul at 6.30pm on Thursday 27th December. We invite you to keep him, his family and all those who have lost a loved one in your prayers over the Christmas season.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER - thank you to all parishioners, the Co-Op, Molly's and Tesco's, for the donations of prizes for our Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner.



CHRISTMAS HOPE - copies still available in the porch, please feel free to take one and share our faith in the act of giving this book to another person.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - are kindly donated by the family of Ron Curtis RIP this year.

SUNDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2018	
Sat 6:30pm	Lina Gapusen, Birthday Thanksgiving
9:00am	Amelia Ledwidge, RIP
11.00am	People of the Parish
THE NATIVITIY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHIRST	

Monday 24th/Tuesday 25th December

Vigil 6.30pm	People of The Parish	
11.30pm	Carols	
Mass at	Peter & Julia Donnan, RIP	
Midnight	Elizabeth Malone, RIP	
9.00am	Patrick Devlin, RIP	
11.00am	Mary Chuchu, Birthday Intention	
Wednesday Ct Stanken (NO MASS)		

Wednesday - St Stephen (NO MASS)

Thursday - St John

6.30pm Fr Joe Williams, RIP

Friday - The Holy Innocents

9.30am Knight, Joseph Tom Eswaikoh, RIP

SATURDAY - CONFESSIONS 5.30PM - 6.00PM

SATURDAY - MASS AT 6.30PM

NEXT SUNDAY -HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

*Sat 6:30pm	Catherine & Patrick Browne, RIP
9:00am	Molly & Joe McIntyre
11.00am	People of the Parish

Charismatic Prayer Group: Back on Friday 11th Jan.

Legion of Mary: Back on Friday 11th Jan. Friday Lunch Club: Back on 18th Jan.

*Children are invited to come to the 6.30pm Vigil dressed as someone from the Nativity, eg, a shepherd, a king, an angel and so on and participate during the Mass.

The Word This Week

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the 'Christmas story' itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.



This Sunday's Readings

First Reading - Micah 5:1-4

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord.

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

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 - Hebrews 10:5-10

God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Gospel - Luke 1:39-44

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

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: Betty, Anne, Mary & Anne-Marie

Thanks to our Sunday Café Helpers

This Week: Charlotte & Abitha/Rose & Kenya Group

Next Week: Maureen to co-ordinate

Thanks to our Flower Arrangers

Anna, Bernadette & Jhay

Useful Contact Details

- + Charlotte Seery (Parish Secretary)
- + Jenny Duffy (Parish Administrator & Hall Bookings) admin@stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk phone 01582 663706, note office open on: Thursday 27th December, 9.15-1.15pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS Sunday 16th December - £945.02