



25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – YEAR A

Welcome to St Martin's

ATTENDANCE AT MASS – as we move towards a colder season, and while space in Church remains restricted, **could I ask that those of you who drive to Church consider remaining in your cars** to allow those who have to come on foot access to the Church. I realise that it's not quite the same, but it is an act of generosity that allows more people to attend. We will continue to set up speakers outside so that you can participate in Mass from your cars, and for Holy Communion to be brought to you at the entrance to the Church.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended and it may be that some people may prefer to attend Mass during the week when the church will be less busy. Remember that there's also the opportunity to enter into spiritual communion with our public Masses at: <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/>

As previously, Fr Simon will continue to offer Mass privately for the whole parish on the days when there is no public Mass.

PARISH OFFICE – The Parish Office will reopen on 21st September, maintaining the same hours as previously: 9.15am to 1.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 – While we give thanks for those children who have made their first Holy Communion in recent weeks, we are also looking ahead to next year. However, please note that because COVID restrictions may remain in place, we are exploring what First Holy Communion preparation may look like this year, so the process may not begin as early this year.

APPLICATIONS to CATHOLIC SCHOOLS for September 2021 - in the COVID crisis we cannot arrange the usual Sign Up Sundays this year. Therefore, if you want a priest to support your application for your child to go to a Catholic primary or secondary school in September 2021, in Luton or elsewhere, you must contact him with the details he will need to provide you with that support i.e. name of child - date of birth - school[s] to which you will applying.

You must do this by email or in writing at least a month before the closing date for applications. Secondary applications must be submitted by 31 October 2020 and Primary applications by 15 January 2021. The priest is not in a position to take down details after a Sunday Mass. This applies to all schools including those requiring the Catholic Education Service Certificate of Practice.

SEASON OF CREATION – For information on “The Season of Creation” go to: <https://seasonofcreation.org/2020/08/13/uniting-for-prayer-during-the-season-of-creation/>

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES – if at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but would still like to receive it, you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange delivery for you.

PEACE WALK 2020 – this will be online on 21 September at 6.30pm, the International Day of Peace. To register go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdOvgrD0iG9ybP9YEHgY4dLXMHlhIqMZ>

PARISH PRAYER:

Loving Father, “You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life”. May we, the parish of St Martin de Porres, encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the good news with joy. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to “go out to the whole world and proclaim” our faith with confidence. Give us the courage to witness to the ‘Joy of the Gospel’ by our words and actions. Help us to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

25 th Sunday of the Year – 20 th September 2020	
6.30pm	Michael Donaghy RIP
11am	Frank Lennon RIP
Monday – ST MATTHEW	
No Public Mass	Phil Spallin INT
Tuesday – Feria	
9.30am	Delia Power RIP (28 th Ann)
Thursday – Our Lady of Walsingham	
6.30pm	Eeva Kovic INT
Friday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Rosemary McCloskey INT
Saturday – Feria	
1pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Tommy Sheridan INT
NEXT SUNDAY – 26th Sunday of the Year	
11am	Margerita Michael RIP

DONATIONS – While we will endeavour to keep parish outgoings as low as possible, please could I ask those parishioners who can afford it at this time, and do not currently give by Standing Order, to consider donating online, taking out a standing order or making a donation via telephone, using one of the following options:

Option 1: This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/> Please indicate in the notes section that the donation is for “St Martin de Porres, Luton”. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donations to your parish, but donations to individual priests are not eligible for Gift Aid. Please therefore do not complete the Gift Aid option for any donation to a priest.

Option 2: You can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows.

Bank: NatWest; Sort Code: 60-06-11; Account Name; 46898093
Account Name: Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust
Payment Ref: St Martin de Porres, Luton

Option 3: ‘Giving Tuesday’: each Tuesday between 10:00am and 4:00pm, people will be able to call this number, 01604 712065, and donate to our parish. All you will require is to have your debit or credit card to hand when you call. You can make a one-off donation to cover any missed Sunday offerings or you can call each week. As only one person will be taking these calls if they are already on a call when you ring, please either call back a little later or leave your contact details on the answer machine.

**Thank you for any help you can give.
A particular thank you to all of you who have
taken out Standing Orders over the last months.
This gives us a surer footing on which to build for
the future.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First reading – Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second reading - Philippians 1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no

right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

The Word of this week

We can never hope fully to understand God: especially God's generosity. We are very good at working out who is deserving of good fortune and who is not - unfortunately for us, God's gifts go to those God chooses, not those we choose. An example is forgiveness: those who have done the most wrong are those who receive the greatest forgiveness when they turn to God - perhaps at times we begrudge this gift. Today's lesson is simply this: God's ways are not our ways, God's thought are not our thoughts.

Directives regarding the reopening of churches

- Please wear a mask, unless you have an underlying health condition that makes you exempt.
- If a queue needs to form outside the church, the two-metre social distancing rule should be applied.
- If you have cold or flu like symptoms when you arrive you will not be allowed to enter.
- Only between 18 to 30 people will be allowed access to the church at a given time, depending on sizes of households.
- Face coverings will need to be worn.
- Our hands will need to be sanitised as we enter and as we leave the church, using the sanitisers provided.
- Depending on the day, you may find the church cool as all doors and windows have to be opened to allow thorough ventilation and to minimise touch.
- We will not be able to kneel on the sanctuary steps, to pray at or touch the images and statues around the church, to light votive candles, to go into the Lady Chapel, to access holy water or to use the toilets. Basically, movement and touch has to be kept to a minimum.
- No individual or household can lead an act of public worship or devotion, such as the rosary or a litany. We are restricted purely to Mass or personal prayer.
- Each person is required to take any item that they bring with them out of the church when they leave.
- The Church will be accessed from the car park as usual, but we will be using the exit onto the main road as the way out.
- During the Saturday afternoon for private prayer, if there is a queue to come into the church we will be asking you to spend no more than ten minutes in prayer to allow others their opportunity.
- The directives state that no one under 16 can come to private prayer without an accompanying adult being with them.
- The government also advises those who are 70 or over, and those who are shielding, not to attend church at present, but access will not be denied if that's a risk you choose to take.
- Those bringing children need to ensure that the children remain in the seat provided, and enable an atmosphere of calm to be maintained so that others can pray.
- Stewards will be in attendance throughout to ensure that directives are adhered to, as otherwise we as a church – and churches across England – may be denied permission to open in the future. Sadly, they will not be able to assist you unless in an emergency.