



26th 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.

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER - Online participation is through <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/> or <https://www.youtube.com/WalsinghamCatholicTV> and will be led by Bishop Marcus Stock of Leeds. Further information can be found at www.prolifepilgrimage.org

SAVE THE DATE! - DIOCESAN BLAZE EVENT 2020 - We are pleased to announce the annual Diocesan BLAZE event for 2020 is going online! Confirmation is a major milestone in the life of a Catholic, and it is important this moment is marked appropriately for our young people. For 2020 NYMO are taking BLAZE online, enabling our young people who were due to be confirmed this year to come together in an environment of fellowship and sharing, as they prepare to be confirmed in their Catholic faith.

BLAZE Online will run from 11am-3pm, on **Saturday 17th October 2020**. There will be times of prayer, worship, fun and faith formation, and there will also be a live Q+A session with Bishop David, offering the Confirmandi the option to send in their questions online for the Bishop to answer. Mass will be celebrated at 6pm for the Confirmandi and they will be very welcome to join online via <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

All online content will be shared via our website (nymo.org), YouTube (luxnymo) with some break time fun happening on our Instagram Stories (luxnymo). You do not need to let us know if you will be joining us on Saturday 17th October 2020 for BLAZE Online.

WEBINAR SERIES - On 5th August Pope Francis called on the Church to reflect on our current situation. In response, the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. Topics include reaching out to the needy, building community, prayer and spirituality, and catechesis. The webinars are free to attend, but you will need to register to receive the web link. For more information and to register, please go to <https://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>

PARISH OFFICE – The Parish Office has reopened. Elaine Goodship, Parish Administrator, can be contacted by email or telephone between 9.15am and 1.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

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

26 th Sunday of the Year – 27 th September 2020	
6.30pm	Tommy Sheridan INT
11am	Margerita Michael RIP
Monday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Patrick McDonagh INT
Tuesday – SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL	
9.30am	Rita Newman RIP
Thursday – St Teresa of the Child Jesus	
6.30pm	Anne Meaney RIP
Friday – Holy Guardian Angels	
No Public Mass	Clare Arnold INT
Saturday – Feria	
1pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Alan & Lisa Brady
NEXT SUNDAY – 27th Sunday of the Year	
11am	Deborah Gilmore RIP

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021 – 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.

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. For further details please visit our website www.stmartindepordeschurch.org.uk 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 – Ezekiel 18:25-28

When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm – 24(25):4-9

REMEMBER YOUR MERCY, LORD.

Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-11

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*IF ANYONE LOVES ME HE WILL KEEP MY WORD,
AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM,
AND WE SHALL COME TO HIM.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 21:28-32

He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax

collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Word of this week

'Once a sinner, always a sinner.' That seems to be the attitude of the self-righteous in the first reading and the Gospel; they object that God is unjust, because he gives sinners another chance. But God tells them quite clearly that such attitudes are the real injustice - to allow prejudice and hardness of heart to come between repentance and forgiveness. The words of Christ in the Gospel must have struck a chill into the hard hearts of the so-called righteous chief priests - even today they can make us stop and think: 'Prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.' All our outward show matters little, if it does not correspond with what is deep in our hearts; all our words are meaningless, if they do not correspond with the way we live our lives.

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.

