



## 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION** – This collection, which would have taken place in June, has been transferred to today. Peter's Pence represents a small offering, accompanied by grand desires and visions. It is an offering that each member of the faithful decides to give to the Pope so that he can provide for the needs of the whole Church, and wherever it finds itself most in need.

If you would like to contribute to this collection, please place your offerings in an envelope clearly marked 'Peter's Pence Collection' and place in the offertory basket or post through the Presbytery during the week.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEK – CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS** – Fr Simon will be offering 3 Masses each week during November. We will NOT be handing out the usual envelopes this year. Instead we ask that you send the list of those you would like remembered during Mass either via email or through the Presbytery door. Please send emails to [admin.stmartindepordes@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:admin.stmartindepordes@northamptondiocese.org)

**MASS INTENTION BOOKINGS** – We are now permitted to hand out the envelopes via a steward. Please ensure that you still include all the relevant information in your requests.

- Name of the person for whom Mass is to be offered (clearly printed)
- If it is an Intention or RIP
- The date you would prefer
- Your name and contact number (clearly printed)

Whilst Fr Simon will pray for those named, on the date asked for, we cannot always schedule a Mass on the requested date. We currently have dates free in December and are now taking requests for 2021. Please also note that the diocese suggests that a minimum of a £5 donation, which should be placed inside an envelope, is given for a Mass Intention.

**WEBINAR SERIES** – Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church – Monday webinars, Pastoral Ministry Office

Week 3: This week we are very lucky to have Francis Davis, Professor of Religion, Community and Public Policy, speaking on *Making it real, a parish for the poor*. As Francis has also been involved in starting over 40 social enterprises, he's got a lot of practical knowledge to share about getting parish projects off the ground. The talk would be of interest to anyone involved in the SVP, homeless outreach or any other kind of pastoral project. Please go to <http://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk> for more information and to register.

27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year – 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	
6.30pm	Alan & Lisa Brady
11am	Deborah Gilmore RIP
<b>Monday – Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Chinemelum Umeano (Birthday) INT
<b>Tuesday – Feria</b>	
9.30am	Curran Family RIP & INT
<b>Thursday – Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Odinakachukwu Umeano (Birthday) INT
<b>Friday – Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Martin McDonagh INT
<b>Saturday – Feria</b>	
1pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Sylvester Power RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY – 28<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	
11am	Giuseppe Arciero (18 <sup>TH</sup> Anniversary) RIP

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2021** - Given the current crisis the Luton parishes will not begin preparation for First Reconciliation[Confession], First Communion, or Confirmation until at least January 2021. Your clergy will meet again in November to review the situation and will keep you informed.

For baptism as an adult or for your child please see your parish priest.

The usual marriage preparation course for the town will not take place in 2021. Any couples asking to be married in 2021 should see their parish priest immediately.

**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 - address including postcode - 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.

**DICOCESAN BLAZE EVENT 2020** - BLAZE Online will run from 11am-3pm, on **Saturday 17th October 2020**. All content for the day will be shared through the NYMO website so you will just need to click on the link below to join for the day:  
<https://nymo.org/blaze/>

**DONATIONS** –For further details please visit our website [www.stmartindepordeschurch.org.uk](http://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.*

**CARDINAL NEWMAN SCHOOL - Open Evening for Year 6 students** - Due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, Cardinal Newman Catholic School is having a 'virtual' open evening which will be available on the school website from 8 October 2020 [www.cardinalnewmanschool.net](http://www.cardinalnewmanschool.net)

**Recruitment** - Cardinal Newman Catholic School are looking to recruit a full time Teaching Assistant to start as soon as possible. Please visit MvNewTerm or the school website for full details.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## First Reading – Isaiah 5:1-7

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

## Responsorial Psalm – 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

*THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD  
IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.*

## Second Reading – Philippians 4:6-9

*The God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

## Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.*

## Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Gospel – Matthew 21:33-43

*He will lease the vineyard to other tenants.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders  
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing  
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you  
and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### The Word of this week

Today we focus on the vineyard: frequently we see the vineyard as an image or parable of the Kingdom of God. A vineyard takes a great deal of work, throughout the year; it must be tended, watered, pruned, cared for if there is to be any fruit - there are no quick results with vines. So the financial and labour investments made would create high expectations for a good crop. How heartbreaking when the fruit is as sour as vinegar! So it was with God and his people: he invested immense care and love on them, tending them and giving them what they needed - but the fruit was rotten and sour. What can God do? Hand the vineyard over to some tenants who will bring in a harvest. That is us, the new people of Israel: but what sort of harvest will we produce?

### 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*

### **PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU**

**- DO NOT LEAVE IT IN THE CHURCH OR CHURCH**

**PORCH**