



THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – YEAR A

Welcome to St Martin's

ATTENDANCE AT MASS – The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended. Fr Simon will continue to offer Mass privately for the whole parish each day. He will endeavour to live stream Masses on Tuesday at 9.30am, Thursday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 11.00am, via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/>. Please note that you do not need to have the Facebook App or an account in order to view these videos, as our account is public. We now also have a YouTube account. Search for 'St Martin de Porres Catholic Church Luton' and subscribe to receive alerts for future videos of streamed Masses.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – On this day we remember all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn. They did so in the search for justice and freedom and peace and this should spur us forward to pray for true harmony and peace throughout the world.

CHURCH REOPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER – From Thursday 5th November, churches will only be able to open for private prayer. We hope to open St Martin's each Saturday from 1pm to 3pm for a time of Eucharistic Adoration starting on 8th November. The only thing that may stop this is if we aren't able to source the resources required or don't have enough stewards. Sadly, while this is a wonderful opportunity, we will all need to adhere to restrictions similar to those that most of us have experienced when going to the supermarket or elsewhere, reflecting the directives received from government agencies. This means that we will have to act in the ways highlighted on the reverse of this newsletter. I pray that your time of prayer, if and when you come, is truly blessed.

CONFESSIONS – Confession cannot be made available at this time. Pope Francis has reminded us that, in a time such as this, if we profess genuine sorrow for our sins to God, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness and accompanied by the firm resolution to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as is possible, forgiveness of sins is obtained, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).

PARISH OFFICE: The parish office will be partially closed during the second national lockdown. Elaine, our parish administrator, will be working reduced hours. Please note that we will only be able to deal with enquiries via phone or email. She will still endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible, but replies may take longer than usual. Please do not come to the presbytery office during the lockdown.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE – Our parish are collecting Christmas gift for Looked After Children in Luton ages 0-16. The gift will be handed to Salvation Army in Luton on the 15th November as per their request. Salvation Army have said they can only accept new gifts and the gifts should not be wrapped. They encourage younger children to put a Christmas message with the gift. The message is then shared with the looked after child when the gift is delivered to the child through their social worker. Due to the Covid lockdown, please contact Rose on 07449948615 or Gladys 07956468043 who will pick the gifts at your door step.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – USEFUL WEBSITES

- **COLOUR & SHAPE: YouTube Channel** - A weekly online Children's Liturgy for young families unable to attend their Catholic parishes while in lockdown during the Coronavirus pandemic. Sunday liturgies uploaded here for ease of sharing and viewing, however there is more content and social interaction over on Facebook so find us there too!
- **CAFOD:** A range of resources and videos, including live children's liturgy on Sundays at 10am. Click on the link below to view <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

HELPLINE – SPUC & Knights of St Columba: In the light of current events, SPUC has decided to launch a joint initiative with the Knights of St Columba (KSC), with whom they have collaborated since 1967, entitled "Lend a Helping Hand during Lockdown". There is a great deal of suffering in the community, and, sadly, most of this suffering is being experienced by people who are often unseen and unheard. The helpline number is for anyone in difficulty.

Contact: 0141 280 8738 or email: charlie@spucscotland.org

32 nd Sunday of the Year – 8 th November 2020	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
No Public Mass	Sujeewa Gunawardena (1 st Anniversary) RIP
Monday – DEDICATION OF THE LANTERN BASILICA	
No Public Mass	Charlie McDonagh INT
Tuesday – St Leo the Great	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Thursday – St Josaphat of Polotsk	
No Public Mass	Gertrude Mulhern INT
Friday – FERIA	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday – FERIA	
1.00-3.00pm	ADORATION
No Public Mass	Godfrey Waas (15 th Anniversary) RIP
NEXT SUNDAY – 33rd Sunday of the Year	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Saturday 7th November: 11-12.30. "Planning for Advent and Christmas 2020 – reaching our families and household." Explore a range of simple but creative ideas to help our parishes reach out this Advent. (This is a Zoom workshop- you must book to receive the link) <http://formationpathways.co.uk/event/advent-and-christmas/>

Monday 9th November, 7.30pm. Exploring the Post-Lockdown Church, with Fr Matthew Nunes. Over the past few weeks we have taken up Bishop David's challenge to think of ourselves as "the Church as a new reality" and explored online mission, delved into Scripture, and found joy. Where do we go next with all this? Join in for the final session of these webinars: <http://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>

Saturday 14th November – Reflection Day: Celebrate all the Carmelite Saints. St Joseph's Parish, Chalfont St Peter via live stream <https://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live> Keynote address - Fr Matthew Blake OCD. It is not necessary to register but a suggested contribution of £10 towards the cost of the day can be sent to Nat West: Sort Code 600611 Account Number 46738746 Ref: SPIRREFL

The God Who Speaks – Our Liturgy of The Word – A series of 3 online Zoom sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. Led by Mgr Kevin McGinnell & Alex Heath.

- **Tuesday 17th November (7.30-8.30pm)** – Preparing the Way for the Lord: Mark's Gospel & The Season of Advent
- **Tuesday 19th January (7.30-8.30pm)** – 'He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Lk24:45) The importance of God's Word for Christian identity & everyday living
- **Tuesday 16th February (7.30-8.30pm)** – 'Many more began to believe in him because of his Word' (Jn4:41) John's Gospel & The Season of Lent

Please register in advance to secure a place. email: admin@nores.org.uk or phone 01582 723312 (ext 1)

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

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for her

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 62(63):2-8

FOR YOU MY SOUL IS THIRSTING, O GOD, MY GOD.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Do not grieve about those who have died in Jesus

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13

The wise and foolish virgins

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Word of this week

"Watch early for wisdom": wise words, and ones that the foolish bridesmaids of the Gospel should have taken to heart. This is the ultimate in 'putting off till tomorrow...', since the reading is about the end of time, when the Son of Man will come again. Then there will be no tomorrow. If a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing today. Quite often we contemplate the end of time with anxiety and fear: this is not what God wants. Look at the Psalm, where we hear of desperate longing, a thirst for the Lord, that cannot wait. We should not just wait for the Lord with patient endurance, but with impatient longing: what could we desire more than the coming of the Lord, the rising of the dead and an eternity of joy and glory?

PARISH OFFICE: Reduced Operating Hours - Please do not come to the office, call or email only.

Elaine Goodship: Parish Administrator

admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

Charlotte Seery: Parish Finances

finance.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

Maura Byers: Parish Safeguarding Representative

Tel: 07796712868

Directives regarding the reopening of churches

- 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 eleven people will be allowed access to the church at a given time, and the seating will have to remain as laid out, even though it may feel impersonal.
- 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 use the kneelers or 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 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.
- 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 pray 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, but access will not be denied if that's a risk you choose to take.
- Those bringing children need to ensure that they 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.