



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

Fr Simon Penhalagan • 366 Leagrave High Street • Luton • LU4 0NG

01582 663706 • priest.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

www.stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk

@StMartinsLuton

THIRTY THIRD 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.

CHURCH OPENING 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.

ONLINE MARRIAGE SUPPORT: Is your marriage under stress? SmartLoving BreakThrough can help! Identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Available anywhere, anytime through our online platform, the course is completely private and doesn't require your spouse to participate. And it's subsidized by a generous UK donor. Restore hope for your relationship now.

Visit: www.smartloving.org/bto-uk

PRIVATE PRAYER RESOURCES: As a way of helping us throughout these next few weeks whilst public liturgies are prohibited, the Liturgy Commission has put together a number of resources to help us in our private prayer. Visit:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/liturgycommission/#liturgicalguidelines>

There are also some additional resources on our parish Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/>

NYMO RESOURCES: To help our young people continue on their journey towards sainthood, our Youth Office has a number of resources that can be accessed via the YouTube channel and the link below!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/luxnymo> or <https://nymo.org/>

CAFOD - BETTER WORLD APPEAL: CAFOD are continuing to help our brothers and sisters around the world who have been affected by the pandemic. Visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/> for more information.

TURVEY ABBEY: The pandemic has made it impossible for many people to spend time with our Lord on retreat this year. Sister Judith who is a Olivetan Benedictine Sister based at Turvey Abbey has produced an online virtual retreat for anyone who wishes to spend some quality time reflecting with Our Lord. Visit the Turvey Abbey website at

<http://www.turveyabbey.org.uk/pilgrimage>

33RD Sunday of the Year - 15th November 2020

No Public Mass	Godfrey Waas (15 TH Anniversary) RIP
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Monday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Simon McDonagh INT
Tuesday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Assumpta & Zachayo Katumo INT
Thursday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Christeena & Sunny (Thanksgiving) INT
Friday – St Edmund	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday – Presentation of the BVM	
1.00-3.00pm	ADORATION
No Public Mass	Thanksgiving INT
NEXT SUNDAY – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Bishop David will be celebrating **Sunday Mass live from the Cathedral in Northampton at 11.00 am each week** throughout the lockdown period.

Especially in this month of the faithful departed Bishop David will be celebrating Masses for the deceased

Tuesday 10th November, 7.00 PM – Mass for those who have died with the COVID-19 virus

Tuesday 17th November, 7.00 PM – Mass for deceased members of our diocesan family

Tuesday 26th November, 7.00 PM – Mass for the deceased clergy of our diocese

Tuesday 1st December, 7.00 PM – Mass for the widowed

To access the Mass, visit <https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

A series of catecheses by Bishop David for November will be available on our Facebook page. Visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/>

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 – Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A perfect wife—who can find her?

A perfect wife – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;

the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 127(128):1-5 *O blessed are those who fear the Lord.*

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." 'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent

from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

The Word of this week

We must be very careful that the real point of today's first reading is not washed away in genuine concerns over what one can and cannot say about the responsibilities of spouses. This is not, in fact, a recipe for 'the perfect wife', but an illustration, from one age, of the virtue of fully employing the talents God gives us. Some things are timeless, such as holding out a hand to the poor, while other talents shift and change. The point is that all of us are gifted in varying ways and degrees: none of us should begrudge anyone else their talents, for fear that we overlook our own. We work wisely and well, looking forward to the master's return, when we can hand over to him not just what he gave us, but also the fruits that our labours have gained.

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 opening of churches for private prayer

- 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.