

St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING - 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).

RED WEDNESDAY - Beginning 23rd November 2020 - Aid to the Church in Need: Online and at home events to support this charity with their work to help persecuted and suffering Christians around the world. Visit www.acnuk.org for ideas of how to get involved and for details of upcoming, livestreamed events, including:

- **At the Heart of Hope - Piano Recital - Monday 23rd November 7-9pm - Livestream.** Watch live on YouTube by searching 1901 Arts Club or at www.acnuk.org/rwpiano
- **Set your Captives Free - #RedWednesday - Wednesday 25th November 4.30-6.00pm Livestream.** A report on Christians unjustly detained for their faith. Chaired by Rehman Chisti MP with invited guest speakers. Watch Live at www.acnuk.org/rwdigitalevent

PAX CHRISTI - FAITHJUSTICE: FaithJustice is a new movement which seeks to help young adults in their 20s and 30s discover the intimate connection between a life of faith and the struggle for justice in our world. Visit www.faithjustice.org.uk for more information.

A TIME TO LISTEN & SAFE SPACES: Our diocese continues to promote this initiative, part of our diocesan response to improve the way we respond to and engage with victims and survivors of abuse. We would like to encourage anyone affected by abuse to take the opportunity to get in touch with our safeguarding team.

<https://northamptondiocese.org/sgresources>

Nationally, we welcome the launch of **Safe Spaces**. Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales. A telephone helpline and live chat facility is available from Monday - Saturday from 10am - 6pm, apart from Thursdays when the service is open 12 - 8pm. 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times) or email safespaces@victimssupport.org.uk or visit www.safespaceenglandandwales.org.uk

KEECH HOSPICE CARE: This local charity supports seriously ill adults and children and will be celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2021! If you would like to donate to this worthy cause please visit www.keech.org.uk/donate for more information.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King - 22ND November 2020

No Public Mass	Thanksgiving INT
No Public Mass	Christopher Crosby RIP
Monday - Feria	
No Public Mass	Sammy Arnold RIP
Tuesday - St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	
No Public Mass	Patrick McDonagh INT
Thursday - Feria	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Friday - Feria	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday - Feria	
1.00-3.00pm	ADORATION
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
NEXT SUNDAY - 1st Sunday of Advent - Year B	
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 24th 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/>

Pax Christi - Advent Peace Liturgy - Monday 7th December at 7pm (Online) - For more details please visit

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/event/advent-peace-service-online>

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 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 – Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

As for you, my sheep, I will judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 22(23):1-3a,5-6

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king *until he has put all his enemies under his feet* and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be *put under his feet*. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 25:31-46

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Word of this week

"Shepherd-King o'er mountain steep, homeward guide thy wand'ring sheep." This hymn captures the readings perfectly: our King is not a cruel tyrant or despot, but a shepherd who loves his flock, who would (and did) give his life for them. Love for the flock means that he will have to judge them, separating the sheep from those who do not belong to him. Coming to the end of the Church's year leads us to look to our final ending, the homecoming the hymn speaks of. The judgement of the end of time we do not view as a trial or a terror, but as a coming home: look back to the Isaiah reading on the 28th Sunday to see what a homecoming party is offered. All we do is put our lives in order, living just and holy lives, longing for the day of the lord to come.

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.