



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR OF MARK (B)

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.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK – Sea Sunday 2020 was moved from its normal Sunday in July to 20th December this year due to the national lockdown. If you wish to make a donation, please put your offering in an envelope marked 'Sea Sunday' into the collection basket or post through the Presbytery letterbox. Alternatively you can make an online donation by visiting <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/individual-giving>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES –

Tuesday 22nd December 9.30am
Thursday 24th December 6.00pm & 8.00pm
Friday 25th December 9.00am & 11.00am
Sunday 27th December 11.00am

So that our stewards can ensure public safety and compliance with government guidelines, we are asking that you let us know if you are planning to attend Mass on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and how many people would be coming from your household. This is purely to get an idea of numbers, so that our stewards can begin to plan how they can arrange the seating in the church. **Please email Christmas.stmartindeporres@gmail.com.** Thank you. *NB: We are NOT taking 'bookings.'* *This is just to allow our stewards to have an idea of how many people may be attending, so that they can try to plan seating to ensure safety guidelines are followed. We cannot guarantee places or reserve seats.*

PARISH OFFICE – The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 23rd December 2020 to Tuesday 5th January 2021.

CERTIFICATES – If your child had their First Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please ask a steward to get their certificate from the Sacristy.

NYMO NEWS – Our Diocesan Youth Ministry have launched a new project. 'In The Studio' was launched two weeks ago and is a live broadcast from the studio in Northampton. The hour long program has a variety of segments including: praise and worship, teaching, 'grill the priest', an advent quiz and the best bit is it is all hosted by the young people themselves. You can view the first program here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1uHXBC-zU>
There will also be a few faces you will recognise!

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS – The Diocesan communications team have taken the decision that the Diocesan newspaper, The Vine will no longer be published. It was not a decision that was taken lightly. They, and we, also pay tribute to Fr Paul Hardy who founded and edited The Vine for the majority of its thirty-year history. The communications team will now focus their resources on developing online communications. There are a number of online communication channels where Diocesan news and information will be shared:

Instagram : dioceseofNorthampton
Facebook: RC Diocese of Northampton
Twitter: @RCNorthampton
YouTube: Northampton Diocese

You can also sign up to a fortnightly e-newsletter using this link www.northamptondiocese.org/signup

CAMPAIGN – Right To Life UK have set up a tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. Visit the link below for more information: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Fourth Sunday of Advent (O Key) – 20th December 2020

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| No Public Mass | Richard Power INT |
| 11.00am | Sunny Yadu, Prima D'Souza & Shirley Yadu (INT) |
| Monday – Feria - O Rising Sun | |
| No Public Mass | Patrick & Mary Devlin RIP |
| Tuesday – Feria - O King | |
| 9.30am | Leo Nawn RIP |
| Thursday – VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST | |
| 6.00pm | Selina Penhalagan RIP |
| 8.00pm | People of the Parish |
| Friday – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST | |
| 9.00am | Mary (Maura) Devlin |
| 11.00am | St Martin's Deceased RIP |
| Saturday – ST STEPHEN | |
| 1.00-2.00pm | ADORATION |
| No Public Mass | Catherine & Patrick Browne (Anniversary)RIP |
| NEXT SUNDAY – THE HOLY FAMILY | |
| 11.00am | Fr Joe Williams RIP |

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT – For parishioners who may be job hunting or going self-employed due to the pandemic, Sacred Heart Parish, Luton has set up a free online career coaching programme <https://www.vitaepopus.co.uk> providing a wealth of information, tools, practical advice and activities to help anyone wanting to find new employment opportunities or back to work support.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME: 30th June 2021 is the deadline for EEA and Swiss citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. You are encouraged to apply now to protect your rights in the UK. Visit: www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme Citizens Advice Luton can assist EU citizens to make their application for settled or pre-settled status. Contact 01582 544778 or email: eussadvice@lutoncab.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS!

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)

LUX.Valour Online (For Young People aged 11-18yrs) - Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st January 2021, During our LUX.Valour weekend, we will be exploring what it means to be a young person of great bravery. There will be amazing talks, fun small groups, moving times of prayer, ridiculous games and a theme night and all completely free! To book please click on the link below and complete the form on the website. <https://nymo.org/lux-valour/>

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading - 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial 'Psalm' - 88(89):2-5,27,29

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret or endless ages

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named

Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Word of this week

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the character of Mary, and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her, to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, 'the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages'. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

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

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Elaine Goodship: Parish Administrator

admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

Charlotte Seery: Parish Finances

finance.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

Maura Byers: Parish Safeguarding Representative

Tel: 07796712868