



# St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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@StMartinsLuton

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - 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, which can be found with the link below: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqq5AHBcoQ>

**PARISH OFFICE:** The parish office will be partially closed during the third national lockdown. Elaine, our parish administrator, will be working reduced hours (Tues & Fri 9.15am-1.15pm). 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.

**ORDINARY TIME - WINTER:** During this period of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for these intentions

- Peace on Earth, especially on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January
- Christian Unity, especially during the octave 18-25 January
- Racial Justice, especially on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Victims of Trafficking, especially on 8<sup>th</sup> February
- The Sick & Their Carers, especially on 11<sup>th</sup> February
- The Unemployed, especially on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES:** Unfortunately, we cannot hand out chalk this year. However, you may wish to say this prayer with other members of your household and still write the blessing below above the doorway.

*Lord God of heaven and earth,  
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation  
by the guidance of a star.  
Bless this house  
and all who inhabit it.  
Fill them (us) with the light of Christ,  
that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen.*

**Write 20 + C + M + B + 21 in chalk over entrance doorway**

The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs symbolize the cross and the 20 and the 21 represent the year.

**1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2021:** We are now able to open registration for both of these sacramental programmes. Due to the current restrictions, preparations will not be able to begin immediately but we will give further updates later in the term. However, to be fully prepared we need you to have registered your child/ren by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021, as the number of participants is significant in our planning for the programme. Thank you for your patience already with the unfortunate, but unavoidable, delay to the usual proceedings this year. If you would like to register your child/ren as candidates for either their First Holy Communion or Confirmation please email [admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org) for the form, stating the name of the child/ren and for which ceremony they will be starting preparation for.

**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.vitaeopus.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.

The Baptism of the Lord - 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	
No Public Mass	Sammy Arnold RIP
11.00am	Terry Moran RIP
<b>Monday - Feria - First Week of the Year</b>	
No Public Mass	Julia Donnan (Anniversary) RIP
<b>Tuesday - Feria</b>	
9.30am	Albina Prosper RIP
<b>Thursday - Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Phil Maguire RIP
<b>Friday - Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Rose Hughes & Family INT
<b>Saturday - Feria</b>	
1.00-2.00pm	ADORATION
No Public Mass	Rita Lynch RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY - The Second Sunday of the Year 'Peace Sunday'</b>	
11.00am	Nora & Tom O'Brien RIP

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH ST THOMAS CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST** - The St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust is a group of 8 Catholic schools based in Luton, Slough, Dunstable and Houghton Regis. The Trust is expected to grow significantly over the course of this year and, in time, will employ over 1000 people. Over time we will see vacancies many areas: Primary School Teaching & Leadership / Secondary School Teaching & Leadership / Teaching Assistant / Special Education Needs & Disability Learning Support Assistant / Administration / Finance / Human Resources / IT Technician / Site Agent / Data Management. If you join our talent pool by clicking on the link below, you will be contacted about vacancies as and when they arise:

<https://www.mynewterm.com/trust/The-St-Thomas-Catholic-Academies-Trust/142264> The St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust is an employer committed to equalities and we are particularly hopeful that many of our parishioners from Black and Minority Ethnic groups will join our talent pool.

**An invitation to leadership in our Catholic schools** - We will also be launching a new programme for teachers thinking about moving into senior leadership: "Called to lead". This programme will provide a forum for teachers who may not currently work in a Catholic school to gain the support necessary to make that transition and to do so directly into positions of leadership. If you would be interested in joining this programme please email [admin@stcat.co.uk](mailto:admin@stcat.co.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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone 01582 723312 (ext 1)

**LUX.Valour Online (For Young People aged 11-18yrs) - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 - Isaiah 55:1-11

*Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat  
and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me;  
listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.  
See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.  
See, you will summon a nation you never knew,  
those unknown will come hurrying to you,  
for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.  
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.  
Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens  
and do not return without watering the earth, making it  
yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and  
bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth  
does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will  
and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

## Responsorial Psalm - Isaiah 12

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

## Second reading - 1 John 5:1-9

*Jesus Christ came by water and blood*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ  
has been begotten by God;  
and whoever loves the Father that begot him  
loves the child whom he begets.  
We can be sure that we love God's children  
if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;  
this is what loving God is –  
keeping his commandments;  
and his commandments are not difficult,  
because anyone who has been begotten by God  
has already overcome the world;  
this is the victory over the world –  
our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:  
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,  
not with water only,  
but with water and blood;  
with the Spirit as another witness –  
since the Spirit is the truth –  
so that there are three witnesses,  
the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.  
We accept the testimony of human witnesses,  
but God's testimony is much greater,  
and this is God's testimony,  
given as evidence for his Son.

## Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:  
This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the  
world.

## Alleluia!

## Gospel - Mark 1:7-11

*'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

## 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*

## PARISH OFFICE: Reduced Operating Hours - Tuesday &

**Friday 9.15am-1.15pm**

**Please do not come to the office, call or email only.**

Elaine Goodship: Parish Administrator

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Charlotte Seery: Parish Finances

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