



# St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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@StMartinsLuton

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### 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/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqg5AHBcoQ>. We have been asked to highlight that if you are over 70, or were asked to shield in the past, it is advisable not to attend church at the current time.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE! - CHANGE OF MASS TIMES!

**ASH WEDNESDAY – 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021** – There will be two Masses on this day at 9.30am & 6.30pm.

**There will be no public Mass on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**ST PAUL SUNDAY MISSAL 2021** – We still have several copies of these left. If you would like to make a purchase, they will be available from the Presbytery on a Tuesday or Friday from 9.15-1.15. Priced at £6.95 each, please bring the correct money or a cheque, made payable to St Martin de Porres Church.

**DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS** – The e-newsletter from our Diocesan communications department is now weekly. All are welcome to subscribe through the Diocesan website or use the link below [www.northamptondiocese.org/signup](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/signup)

**SMART LOVING – MARRIAGE MINISTRY** - SmartLoving is a series of resources supporting couples in their commitment life-cycle. It's brought to you by the Marriage Resource Centre.

**FOR ENGAGED COUPLES:** A ten week course for couples to complete either individually or together. Register online at <https://smartloving.org/engaged/>.

#### FOR MARRIED COUPLES:

- **BREAKTHROUGH COURSE:** This three-hour online course gives couples a chance to learn how arguments happen and understand how spouses trigger each other, then to process the pain of past injuries and restore hope for the relationship's future with practical strategies. Go to <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>
- **SMART FERTILITY:** is natural fertility awareness for living marriage within the Catholic Faith. Go to: <https://smartloving.org/fertility/>
- **MARRIAGE KIT:** Research shows that relationship education can help couples improve communication and conflict resolution skills, strengthening relationships and reducing family breakdown. An online course to aid growth in understanding of each other which strengthens bonds and reinforces relationships with thought provoking insights and practical skills. See <https://smartloving.org/marriage-kit/>

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION** - The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26 February 2021

### The Fifth Sunday of the Year – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

(Sat) No Public Mass	Mary O'Toole RIP
11.00am	Gerard McCarney RIP
<b>Monday – Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday – Feria</b>	
9.30am	Mary O'Reilly INT
<b>Thursday – Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Fr Simon Penhalagan INT
<b>Friday – Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Imelda Wright
<b>Saturday – Feria</b>	
<b>1.00-2.00pm</b>	ADORATION
No Public Mass	Roldan Penequito RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY – SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR –</b>	
11.00am	Mr & Mrs Christie INT

#### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021** “The liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities...” So begins the Holy Father's Message for this Day of the Sick.

#### 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February 2021: RETROUVAILLE MARRIAGE SUPPORT

“Retrouvaille” is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow people's marriage .... and people don't need to leave home, it comes to them! For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the programme email: [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

#### 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 – Job 7:1-4,6-7

*Restless I fret till twilight falls.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

## Responsorial Psalm – 146(147):1-6

*PRAISE THE LORD WHO HEALS THE BROKEN-HEARTED.*

## Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

*I should be punished if I did not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SAYS THE LORD; ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS ME WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## Gospel – Mark 1:29-39

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her,

took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

### The Word of this week

This world, as we know, is a fragile and fallible place, in which we encounter hunger, disease, sickness and death. Jesus proclaims, by his actions of healing, that there is another world, the Kingdom of God, which will be free from all such anxieties and afflictions. The story of Paradise and the Garden of Eden painted a picture of a world which was perfect, and free from all problems. Jesus came into the world precisely to offer us a return to Eden, if we follow him. Each of his miracles is also, in some sense, a parable or teaching, pointing out to us something of the lost happiness and perfection which he is restoring. This vision of Paradise is not Utopian or delusory, not just a vain hope to comfort us with, but the true manifestation of God's love for us. Jesus could not cure every disease or sickness in the world then: but his miracles of healing are a sign that one day, when the Kingdom comes, sickness and disease will be wiped away for ever.

**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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