



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - YEAR OF LUKE (C)

Welcome to St Martin's

Happy New Year to you all! We pray you all have a blessed 2022, Fr Simon & Deacon Liam

ATTENDANCE AT MASS – The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended. Fr Simon will endeavour to live stream Masses on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/> and YouTube at <https://youtube.com/channel/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqq5AHBcoQ>

COVID SAFETY MEASURES – With the increasing rates of infection we would like to remind everyone of the safety guidelines whilst attending Church. Please sign in on the track and trace form or scan the QR code upon entry / sanitise your hands / wear a face covering / social distance from people you do not live with / leave a two seat space between your household and others. Please remain respectful of the steward's requests. Their ongoing voluntary support means that we can continue to hold public Masses. Please join me in offering our deepest thanks for their service.

CHANGE TO MASS TIMES - Please note Mass will be at 12.00pm Noon on Monday 3rd January. On Tuesday 4th January there will be Requiem Mass at 11.30am instead of the usual 9.30am weekday Mass.

SUNDAY MASSES – From Sunday 2nd January we will be reinstating the 9.00am Mass, on a trial basis until the end of January. We have no stewards for this Mass, so for it to work, those attending will have to be alert to the need to sign in personally for track and trace purposes, to wear masks and to sit with two seats between each household.

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. Amen.

Write 20 + C + M + B + 22 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 22 represent the year.

PARISH OFFICE – The parish office is closed until Thursday 6th January.

REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2022 – If you would like to register your child for either of these sacramental programmes please request an application form from the parish office or collect a paper version from the church porch. Completed application forms must be returned to the parish office by Sunday 9th January. First Holy Communion classes are for children in school year 3 and above and Confirmation classes are for children in school year 8 and above.

ADVENT GIVING TREE – Thank you for your generosity towards this very worthy charity. Anne & John Jephcott delivered 200 gifts to NOAH in the week before Christmas!

ONLINE GIVING THROUGH NORTHAMPTON DIOCESE – If you have donated to our Parish via the Diocesan Virgin Money Giving button, this ceased to function from November 2021. If you wish to continue donating to the parish in this way, the most helpful method would be to donate through our bank account details: NatWest / Sort Code 60-06-11 / Account: 91052378 'RCDNLutonStMartinDe' or to use the new Diocesan provider, 'Invest My Community'. You can access this online giving page via the donate button on the Diocesan Website or by using the following link <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>

Second Sunday After Christmas - 2 nd January 2022	
(Sat) 6.30pm	Helen Hogan RIP
9.00am	People of the Parish INT
11.00am	Anthony Bissong RIP
Monday - Feria	
12.00pm	Fr Eustace Durugbo INT
Tuesday - Feria	
11.30am	Requiem Mass: Patrick O'Donnell RIP
Thursday - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
6.30pm	Emmanuela Coy INT
Friday - Feria	
9.30am	Mary Leigh RIP
Saturday - Feria	
5.30pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Sammy Arnold RIP
NEXT SUNDAY - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
9.00am	People of the Parish INT
11.00am	Staff at the L & D Renal Unit INT

UPCOMING EVENTS!

REFLECTING ON THE CHURCH POST COVID – Saturday 22nd January, 10.00am-12.30pm at Holy Ghost Catholic Parish Centre, (Westbourne Road, Luton LU4 8JD). An event for Christians in Luton marking the Week of prayer for Christian Unity. How do we as Christians understand what the Covid experience has meant for our communities? How should we move forward? Come and share your experiences and listen to others' wisdom. Keynote Speaker – Rt Rev David J. Oakley, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Northampton.

LUX.PILGRIMAGE – A fun residential weekend for young Catholics aged 11 (Year 7) -18 years from 4th-6th February 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (transportation included from Luton & Northampton). Please contact Fiona email fiona@nymo.org or visit www.nymo.org/lux for more information and to book your place.

LUTON DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSE - Saturday 26th February 2022 10am- 4pm at St. Joseph's Parish Centre - If you are planning to marry next year, please book your place by downloading a booking form at www.stjosephschurchluton.org.uk by Friday 18th February 2022.

JOB VACANCIES -

• Cardinal Newman School are currently recruiting for the following support staff vacancies: Site Agent / Science Technician / Food Technician / Cover Manager / Teaching Assistant
For full details about each role please visit their website, www.cardinalnewmanschool.net or MyNewTerm - www.mynewterm.com. The closing date for all applications is 14 January 2022.

• St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are recruiting for a Headteacher for St Margaret of Scotland, Luton. Visit www.stcat.co.uk/careers-and-training/trust-vacancies/ for a candidate pack for more details, including how to apply. To arrange a visit to the school or to discuss the role with Joe Richardson, Strategic Executive Leader, please call Tracy Laverack, recruitment partner on 07554 118 997 or 01223 907 979 or via email tlaverack@academcis.co.uk. Closing date for application is noon on 31 January 2022.

THE WORD OF GOD

Penitential Rite

Priest: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Response: **For we have sinned against you.**

Priest: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

Response: **And grant us your salvation.**

First reading- Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom

Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High,
she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;
“Then the creator of all things instructed me,
and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, “Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance.”
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.
In the beloved city he has given me rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people,
in the Lord’s property, in his inheritance.’

Responsorial Psalm – 147:12-15,19-20

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Second Reading – Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in
Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,
determining that we should become his adopted sons, through
Jesus Christ
for his own kind purposes,
to make us praise the glory of his grace,
his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the
Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have
never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for
you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give
you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring
you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your
mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what
rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel – John 1:1-18

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:

‘This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me ranks before me

because he existed before me.’

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart,
who has made him known.

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*

USEFUL CONTACTS

PARISH OFFICE: Opening Hours – Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.15am-
1.15pm **NB: The parish office is closed until Thursday 6th January.**

* Elaine Goodship: Parish Administrator

admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

* Charlotte Seery: Parish Finances

finance.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org

* Maura Byers: Parish Safeguarding Representative Tel: 07796712868

* St Vincent de Paul Society: If you need assistance from the SVP,
please call and leave a message on 07927 776291, someone will call
you back between 7-8pm. You can also email us at
st.martinsdeporressvpluton@gmail.com

* Diocese of Northampton Website – www.northamptondiocese.org

* Pastoral Area Council Website – www.lutonpastoralarea.org

Thanks to our Offertory Counters

Anne & John Jephcott and Diane

Thanks to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Team 4: Alex & Team

Next Week: Team 1: Sunny, Paul & Charlotte

Thanks to our flower arrangers

Bernadette, Jhay & Anna

Please take this newsletter home with you.

DOWNLOAD NEWSLETTER @
Stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk

*Items for the Newsletter: Please send any items for the weekly
newsletter to Elaine by Thursday 9.00am. Thank you.*