



# St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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@StMartinsLuton

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR OF LUKE (C)

### Welcome to St Martin's

**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/UCGeNjCAVzvg52aqq5AHBcoQ>

**CONFESSION** – If you would like to make confession before Christmas, Fr Simon will be available in the church after Mass on Sat 18<sup>th</sup>, Mon 20<sup>th</sup>, Tues 21<sup>st</sup>, Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> December and from 9.30-10.30am on Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**CAROL SERVICE** – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm. All are very welcome to attend. We will also be setting up the crib scene during the service. Please come along and join in the festive celebrations. Please be aware that in light of the recent government announcements regarding Covid-19, face coverings will need to be worn and social distancing will remain in place.

**PASTORAL LETTER** – Please see Bishop David's pastoral letter to all parishes across the Diocese, for this weekend. A copy is available on our website.

**CRIB OFFERINGS** – Our crib offerings for this Christmas will be donated to the charity 'Friends of the Holy Land', as suggested by Bishop David. Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) help the most deprived Christian families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. Further information on FHL is available on their website [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** – Our Advent Giving Tree is in the porch, giving us the opportunity to give small gifts to the homeless at Christmas. Please take a tag, buy the item and return it gift wrapped with the tag firmly attached, then place your gift in the box outside the sacristy. Thank you!

**REPOSITORY** – The Repository will be open after Mass on a Saturday evening and Sunday morning. There are lots of lovely Christmas cards and decorative items available. We are also reducing lots of prices on other stock which would make great gifts for either Christmas or celebrations you have coming up in 2022!

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** – Tickets are available to purchase after all Masses! £1 for 5 tickets. The draw will take place after Mass on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**HOPE FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE** – We encourage you to pass on one of the magazines to a friend or family member who isn't a regular church goer but who may find the contents of the magazine inspiring and encourage them to connect with the Lord. The magazines are free and available from the church porch.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN FINANCE TEAM** – As dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues, we know that many people will not be returning to churches this Christmas. We also know that many people still wish to offer a gift to their priests for the sacrifices they make throughout the year. If you would like to offer a gift to your priest this Christmas, please call 01604 712065 between 9am-5pm from Mon 20<sup>th</sup>–Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> and 9.00am-1pm on Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December. NB: Alternatively, there is an offertory envelope for Christmas in your envelope box or you can take an envelope from the church porch. These can be placed in the offering basket as usual.

**REGISTRATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2022** – 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 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**JOB VACANCY** - Parish Secretary at Our Lady Help of Christians, Luton / Part Time 20 hours per week / Start date: ASAP / Working Pattern: Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri. Full information for the position and an application form can be found by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/jobs/> or via email [hadmin@northamptondiocese.com](mailto:hadmin@northamptondiocese.com). Closing date for applications: Fri 17<sup>th</sup> December.

3 <sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent - 'Gaudete' - 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	
(Sat) 6.30pm	Thanksgiving for staff at the L&D Renal Unit
11.00am	Christopher Malone RIP
<b>Monday - St Lucy</b>	
6.30pm	Chinnamma Abraham RIP
<b>Tuesday - St John of the Cross</b>	
9.30am	Richard Power (6 month anniversary) RIP
<b>Thursday - Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Peggy Gorman RIP
<b>Friday - Feria - O Wisdom</b>	
9.30am	Julita & Leandro Salazar RIP
<b>Saturday - Feria - O Adonai</b>	
5.30pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Thanksgiving: Kenneth Azanu INT
<b>NEXT SUNDAY - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - O Root of Jesse</b>	
11.00am	Mary Devlin RIP

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**RORATE MASS** by candlelight in honour of Our Lady - **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30am at Holy Ghost Church**, (Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD). All are welcome to attend.

**ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT** - **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.30-8.30pm**. Join Fr John Udris and Avril Baigent for an online retreat helping us to pause, reflect and encounter the Lord. The final two sessions focus on the lives of St Lucy and St Joseph. To join our online community on a Monday night register here: <https://lift-up-your-eyes.eventbrite.co.uk>, or watch the sessions here <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/lift-up-your-eyes/>.

**REFLECTING ON THE CHURCH POST COVID** - **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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? 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 **4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> February 2022** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk (transportation included from Luton & Northampton). Please contact Fiona email [fiona@nymo.org](mailto:fiona@nymo.org) or visit [www.nymo.org/lux](http://www.nymo.org/lux) for more information and to book your place.

**LUTON DEANERY MARRIAGE COURSE** - **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stjosephschurchluton.org.uk) by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASSES

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm* Vigil Mass
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00am Midnight Mass 11.00am* Christmas Day Mass
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am & 11.00am*
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00pm (Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00pm* (Bank Holiday)
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	normal Mass schedule
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	12.00pm (Bank Holiday)

\*Mass will be livestreamed via Parish Facebook and YouTube channels  
(NB: There will not be a 9.30am Mass on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December)

# 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 – Zephaniah 3:14-18

*The Lord will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

## Responsorial Psalm – Isaiah 12

*Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

## Second Reading – Philippians 4:4-7

*The Lord is very near.*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

## Gospel – Luke 3:10-18

*What must we do?*

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will

baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

## The Word of this week

This Sunday is called 'Gaudete Sunday' – 'Rejoice Sunday'. This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us.

## 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

\* Elaine Goodship: Parish Administrator

[admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org)

\* Charlotte Seery: Parish Finances

[finance.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org](mailto: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](mailto:st.martinsdeporressvpluton@gmail.com)

\* Diocese of Northampton Website – [www.northamptondiocese.org](http://www.northamptondiocese.org)

\* Pastoral Area Council Website – [www.lutonpastoralarea.org](http://www.lutonpastoralarea.org)

## Thanks to our Offertory Counters

Anne & John Jephcott and Diane

## Thanks to our Church Cleaners

This Week: Team 1: Sunny, Paul & Charlotte

Next Week: Team 2: Anne P, Mary & David

## Thanks to our flower arrangers

Bernadette, Jhay & Anna

*Please take this newsletter home with you.*

*DOWNLOAD NEWSLETTER @  
[Stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk](http://Stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk)*

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