



# St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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@StMartinsLuton

## FOURTH 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/UCGeNiCAVvzg52aqq5AHBcoQ>

**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 metre 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.

**CONFESSION** – If you would like to go to 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 9.30-11.30am on Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December. Fr Peter will also be available between 10.30am-11.30am on Fri 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**CHANGE TO MASS TIMES** - Please note there will be no 9.30am Mass on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December and no Adoration or 6.30pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December. To replace the Vigil Mass there will be an additional Mass at 9.00am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December.

**PARISH OFFICE** – The parish office will be closed from the afternoon of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will re-open on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHRISTMAS POSTERS** – Please take a Christmas Poster to display in the window of your home. Available from the porch or exit doorways.

**ADVENT GIVING TREE** – This is the last weekend of Advent so please return all gifts and place in the box by the sacristy today! Thank you!

**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)

**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.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN FINANCE TEAM** – Many people 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** – 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 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**RIGHT TO LIFE UK - Ask your MP to end 'DIY' abortion** - The abortion lobby are campaigning to make temporary 'DIY' abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY)

**CAFOD APPEAL** - CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent – O Root of Jesse - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

(Sat) 6.30pm	Thanksgiving: Kenneth Azanu INT
11.00am	Mary Devlin RIP
<b>Monday – Feria – O Key</b>	
6.30pm	Anthony Jins (Birthday Thanksgiving) INT
<b>Tuesday – Feria – O Rising Sun</b>	
9.30am	Mary Kelly RIP
<b>Thursday – Feria – O Emmanuel</b>	
6.30pm	Mary Kilbane RIP
<b>Friday – Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Ann Mary & Christopher McCann RIP
<b>Saturday – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b>	
12.00am	All the deceased of St Martin's Parish RIP
11.00am	Patrick & Mary Devlin RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY – THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	
9.00am	People of the Parish INT
11.00am	Selina Penhalagan RIP

#### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7.30-8.30pm.** Join Fr John Udri 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? 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 **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 – Micah 5:1-4

*He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord.*

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

the least of the clans of Judah,

out of you will be born for me

the one who is to rule over Israel;

his origin goes back to the distant past,

to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them

till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock

with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power

to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

## Responsorial Psalm – 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

## Second Reading – Hebrews 10:5-10

*God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,*

*prepared a body for me.*

*You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;*

*then I said,*

*just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,*

*'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays

down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the

oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you*

*took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am*

*coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to

replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be

made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all

by Jesus Christ.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

## Gospel – Luke 1:39-44

*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house

and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

## The Word of this week

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the 'Christmas story' itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

## 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 will be closed from the afternoon of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will re-open on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

\* 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 2: Anne P, Mary & David

Next Week: Team 3: Benedicta & Team

## 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.*