



# St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

Fr Simon Penhalagan • 366 Leagrave High Street • Luton • LU4 0NG  
01582 663706 • [priest.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:priest.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org)

Deacon Liam • [revliamcastle@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:revliamcastle@northamptondiocese.org)  
[admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:admin.stmartindeporres@northamptondiocese.org)

[www.stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk](http://www.stmartindeporreschurch.org.uk) •

@StMartinsLuton

## THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR OF LUKE (C)

### Welcome to St Martin's

Thank you so much to everyone who served our parish community over this Christmas, both in the preparation of the Church and in the celebration of the liturgy. Our celebrations so far have been truly beautiful. Our sincere gratitude for the many cards, thoughtful gifts and very generous Christmas offerings that we have received. Your kindness is gratefully appreciated. With every blessing for 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/UCGeNiCAVvg52aqq5AHBcoQ>

**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 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January there will be Requiem Mass at 11.30am instead of the usual 9.30am weekday Mass.

**SUNDAY MASSES** – From Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**PARISH OFFICE** – The parish office is closed until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS** – **Congratulations!** 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, £100: Mary McCann / 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Hamper: Maura Byers / 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Whisky: Andrew Jephcott / 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, Dashcam: Joseph Seery / 5<sup>th</sup> Prize, Car Cleaning Kit: Udua Esuakoh / 6<sup>th</sup> Prize, Wine: Marie Perrin / 7<sup>th</sup> Prize, Sweets: D Waldo / 8<sup>th</sup> Prize, Soft Toy: Braithwaith / 9<sup>th</sup> Prize, Port: Pacre Family. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the Christmas raffle, all profits will go towards parish funds. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**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. 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.

**AZALEA ANGELS** – Azalea is a Luton based, Christian charity that provides all year round crisis care for people caught in sex trafficking. They have a Christmas Appeal 'Be an Azalea Angel' to help provide care and support in the drop-in centre and essential supplies. To make a donation or to find out more visit <http://azalea.org.uk/christmas>

**RADIO MARIA ENGLAND** – is a 24hr Catholic Radio Station set up to broadcast programmes promoting and expressing the Christian Faith. It is part of the World Family of Radio Maria, formed in 1998 in response to the apparitions and messages of our Lady in Medjugorje and Fatima. If you would like to donate or find out more about Radio Maria England please visit <https://radiomariaengland.uk>

**NOAH WINTER APPEAL** - This winter, with your help, NOAH hope to raise £10,000 to ensure that no one goes cold and hungry in Luton and Central Bedfordshire this year. You can donate a monetary donation via [www.noahenterprise.org/winter-appeal-2021/](http://www.noahenterprise.org/winter-appeal-2021/)

### The Holy Family - 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021

(Sat) 12.00am	All the deceased of St Martin's Parish RIP
(Sat) 11.00am	Patrick & Mary Devlin RIP
(Sun) 9.00am	People of the Parish INT
(Sun) 11.00am	Selina Penhalagan RIP
<b>Monday - ST JOHN</b>	
12.00pm	Fr Joe Williams RIP
<b>Tuesday - THE HOLY INNCOENTS</b>	
12.00pm	Catherine & Patrick Browne RIP
<b>Thursday - Sixth Day of Christmas Octave</b>	
6.30pm	Patrick & Larry McCann RIP
<b>Friday - Seventh Day of Christmas Octave</b>	
9.30am	Trinidad Manalo RIP
<b>Saturday - MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	
5.30pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Helen Hogan RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY - 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b>	
9.00am	People of the Parish
11.00am	Anthony Bissong RIP

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**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.

**JOB VACANCY** – St Thomas Catholic Academics Trust are delighted to present this special opportunity to become a Headteacher in the St Thomas Trust. St Margaret of Scotland is a school that has been transformed in recent years and presents a fantastic opportunity for a leader who wishes to build on those successes and create a community that stretches beyond the school gates and into the hearts of families, parishes, as well as our neighbours and friends across Luton. Our candidate pack (available on our website: [www.stcat.co.uk/careers-and-training/trust-vacancies/](http://www.stcat.co.uk/careers-and-training/trust-vacancies/)) offers a detailed insight into the role, together with details as to how you can apply. You will be guided and supported through the application process by our partners at Academics.

For more information about this exciting opportunity, including arranging visits to the school and discussions with our Strategic Executive Leader, Joe Richardson, please call our recruitment partner Tracy Laverack on 07554 118 997 or 01223 907 979 or via email [tlaverack@academicis.co.uk](mailto:tlaverack@academicis.co.uk) Closing date 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 – Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

*Samuel is made over to the Lord for the whole of his life.*

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

## Responsorial Psalm – 127(128):1-5

*They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

## Second Reading – John 3:1-2,21-24

*We are called God's children, and that is what we are.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,

if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence,

and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments

and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ

and that we love one another

as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments

lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us

by the Spirit that he has given us.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Open our heart, O Lord,

to accept the words of your Son.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

## Gospel – Luke 2:41-52

*Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the doctors.*

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him

among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority.

His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

## The Word of this week

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more 'dramatic' events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us there were also the so-called 'hidden years' - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. Our celebration of this feast announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

## 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 untilnb 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 3: Benedicta & Team

Next Week: Team 4: Alex & 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.*