



St Martin de Porres Catholic Church, Luton

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - 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/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqg5AHBcoQ>

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.

SUNDAY MASSES – Please note that we have reinstated the 9.00am Sunday 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.

ORDINARY TIME – WINTER – During this period of Ordinary Time, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

- Peace on Earth, especially on 16th January
- Christian Unity, especially during the octave 18th-25th January
- Victims of Trafficking, especially on 8th February
- The Sick & Their Carers, especially on 11th February
- Racial Justice, especially on 13th February
- The Unemployed, especially on 27th February

NEW CONTACT DETAILS – We have a new email address for the parish office. All email correspondence should now be directed to parish.stmartindepordes@northamptondiocese.org Please take a moment to update your contact list. Thank you.

SYNOD MEETING – Sunday 23rd January – The first synod meeting will take place after Mass in the Church Hall. Please confirm if you plan to attend by emailing revliamcastle@northamptondiocese.org. All welcome to attend.

PARENT MEETING - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022 – Parents/Carers who have submitted an application form for their child's First Holy Communion, are invited to attend an information meeting at St Martin's on **Saturday 15th January at 11am**. Details about the preparation classes, including dates will be given at this meeting.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – Talking Elephants is a bereavement support group organised by Neville Funerals. Local sessions take place in

- Dunstable: Third Sunday of the month 1-3pm at The Priory Parish Hall, Church Street, Dunstable LU5 4RU
- Luton: First Wednesday of the month 12-2pm at The Parish Centre, Lucas Gardens, Barton Hills, Luton LU3 4BG
- Stopsley: 3rd Thursday of the month 10-11.30am at St Anne's Church, Crawley Green Road, Luton LU2 0QN

For more information please call the bereavement team on 01582 499680 or email talkingelephants@nevillefuneralservice.com or visit www.nevillefuneralservice.com

NOAH ENTERPRISE CHARITY REQUEST - Homeless charity NOAH Enterprise are appealing for the following urgent items for their community shops: clothing, shoes, toys and bric-a-brac. If you have any unwanted items in good condition, please consider donating them to either the Lewsey Farm (13 St Dominic's Square, Tomlinson Avenue, LU4 0UN) or the High Town (20-22 High Town Road, LU2 0DD) NOAH shops. Both shops are open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm. Thank you for your support.

UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: An online newspaper delivered to your smartphone or tablet each Thursday for just £20 a quarter. Please visit www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk/subscribe or call Michelle on 07436 617650 for more information

| The Baptism of the Lord - 9 th January 2022 (Here ends the Season of Christmas) | |
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| (Sat) 6.30pm | Sammy Arnold RIP |
| 9.00am | People of the Parish INT |
| 11.00am | Staff at the L & D Renal Unit INT |
| Monday – Feria | |
| 6.30pm | Anthony Bissong RIP |
| Tuesday – Feria | |
| 9.30am | Jean Fleming INT |
| Thursday – Feria | |
| 6.30pm | Theresa May, The People of Sonning & Reading INT |
| Friday – Feria | |
| 9.30am | Thanksgiving INT |
| Saturday – Feria | |
| 5.30pm | ADORATION |
| 6.30pm | Jane & Peter Fielding |
| NEXT SUNDAY – Second Sunday of the Year | |
| 9.00am | People of the Parish INT |
| 11.00am | Patrick Devlin (Anniversary) RIP |

UPCOMING EVENTS!

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – Our Liturgy of the Word: A series of online Zoom sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year. Led by the Liturgical Formation Team. **Tuesday 18th January** – An Introduction to Luke / **Wednesday 23rd February** – Preparing for Lent / **Wednesday 6th April** – Preparing for the Triduum / **Wednesday 20th April** – Celebrating Eastertide. Each session will include input, prayer and the opportunity to make comment and ask questions. Please register in advance to secure a place email: admin@nores.org.uk or 01582 723312 (ext. 1)

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.

CHARITY EVENT – Saturday 26th February – ‘Masquerade – A fun evening of Opera’ is being staged in support of NOAH, organised by the Luton Circle of The Cantenian Association. Whether you are an opera lover or not, you will be enraptured by the singing and the joyous occasion, so join in this light but professionally sung gala evening! Prizes given to audience members wearing the best masquerade mask! 6.45pm for 7.30pm at Holy Ghost Parish Centre, 33 Westbourne Rd, Luton LU4 8JD. Tickets cost £32, please visit <https://noah-masquerade-opera.eventbrite.co.uk>

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 – Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

‘Console my people, console them’

says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem

and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness

a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God

across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm – 103(104):1-4,24-25,27

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7

He saved us by means of the cleansing water of rebirth.

God’s grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness* and to *purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good.

But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

ALLELUIA!

Gospel – Luke 3:15-16,21-22

‘Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire’

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. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

The Word of this week

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God’s promises: “This is my Son, the Beloved”.

On this day we stand before the revelation of God’s love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

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

parish.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 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

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