



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to St Martin's

ATTENDANCE AT MASS – The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended. Fr Simon will continue to offer Mass privately for the whole parish each day. He will endeavour to **live stream Masses on Tuesday at 9.30am, Thursday at 6.30pm, Saturday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 11.00am,** via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StMartinsLuton/>. Please note that you do not need to have the Facebook App or an account in order to view these videos, as our account is public. We now also have a YouTube account, which can be found with the link below: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqq5AHBcoQ>. We have been asked to highlight that if you are over 70, or were asked to shield in the past, it is advisable not to attend church at the current time.

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS – Please note that we do not have any available dates until July. We recommend that you book any significant dates at least three months in advance. Please use the Mass request envelopes for your requests and offerings, available from a steward at the entrance and exit doors. Thank you.

REPOSITORY – The repository will be reopening from Sunday 18th April for the sale of all devotional items. Please note that only **four** people are allowed into the hall at any one time and social distancing and COVID-19 secure measures should be followed.

PASTORAL AREA COUNCILS – On Saturday 20th March over eighty members of Northampton's pastoral area councils met on zoom to reflect and gather to seek God's way forward for our local areas. Bishop David focussed on two key themes, 'Vision and process'. He stated clearly his desire for every area of our diocese to be steeped in prayer that leads to mission in our evangelistic efforts and our solidarity with those on the fringes. Bishop David's full address can be downloaded from <https://northamptondiocese.org/pastoral-area-councils-meeting-march-2021/>

BISHOP DAVID ASKS – WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST YEAR? – How have you experienced prayer, liturgical worship, service and witness to others? It would be very helpful to those of us seeking to discern the way forwards, if you were able to share your experiences by engaging with a survey which seeks to learn from everything that has happened since the pandemic took hold of our world. The link to the survey is below. <https://northamptondiocese.org/diocese-covid-survey/>

DID YOU SUBMIT YOUR CENSUS? – If you didn't submit your census on 21st March it's not too late! Everyone living in England will have received a letter through the post with a unique access code to enable them to complete the Census online www.census.gov.uk. You can request a paper form by calling **free** on 0800 141 2021. If you have lost your original access code, you can also request a new one. If you do not complete the census, you risk a £1000 fine.

Second Sunday of Easter – 11 th April 2021	
(Sat) 6.30pm	Michael Doherty INT
11.00am	Ethel Kennedy INT
Monday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Veronica Connor RIP
Tuesday – Feria	
9.30am	Petie Sheridan RIP
Thursday – Feria	
6.30pm	Bill Connors RIP
Friday – Feria	
No Public Mass	Sue Herbert RIP
Saturday – Feria	
1.00-2.00pm	ADORATION
6.30pm	Abundio Yumang RIP
NEXT SUNDAY – Third Sunday of Easter	
11.00am	Pamela Cole (80 th Birthday) INT

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Wednesdays from 7th April at 7.00pm for eight weeks - THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE - Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this **FREE OF CHARGE**, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

Mondays from 19th April – 7.30-8.30pm - From the Pastoral Ministry Office of Northampton: DIVINE RENOVATION READ-ALONG - After a roller-coaster year, what's next for our churches? How do we meet Pope Francis' challenge to become the church for all people? Join with Avril Baigent and special guests as we read Fr James Mallon's *Divine Renovation* together. Week 1: Remembering our Identity and Purpose with Bishop David Oakley. To receive the zoom link, register here: <https://readalong.divine.renovation.eventbrite.co.uk>

Saturday 24th April – 3.00-4.00pm – LIVE-STREAMED MASS FOR THE SICK - Bishop David will celebrate a special live-streamed Mass for the Sick. The Mass is for all those suffering with illness, especially for anyone who is housebound. For more information see here: <https://pastoralministryoffice.org/event/live-streamed-mass-for-the-sick/>.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm – 117(118):2-4,15-18,22-24

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS LOVE HAS NO END OR ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Second Reading – 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has already overcome the world

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world –our faith. Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness –since the Spirit is the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel – John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Word of this week

After the joys and exuberance of Easter Sunday and Easter Week, we settle down into the longest Season in the Church's Year - Eastertide. This period of fifty days is a time of sustained gladness, which comes through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures which describe the risen life of Jesus - not just his appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, but the teachings from his ministry which reveal the risen life he now possesses. We also spend time hearing about how the Resurrection made a difference: how the timid and frightened disciples were able to leave Jerusalem and proclaim a message of life over death to the whole world, as we read through the book of the Acts of the Apostles. We also linger over the first letter of Saint John, which ties together so many of the themes of Easter: life, faith, baptism, the Spirit - all brought together in the person of the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead. On this second Sunday, we continue to track through 'real time', by hearing what happened in Jerusalem on the Sunday after the Resurrection. with the Lord appearing to Thomas - strengthening his faith, and strengthening ours as we listen to the account.

PARISH OFFICE: Reduced Operating Hours - Tuesday & Friday 9.15am-1.15pm

Please do not come to the office, call or email only.

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