



## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### 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/UCGeNjCAVvzg52aqq5AHHBcoQ>

**STAYING SAFE - UPDATE FOR STAGE 4 -** As you will be aware, many of the legal restrictions for managing Covid-19 are being removed from 19<sup>th</sup> July. However, we are still being urged to remain cautious and to be sensitive to the concerns of others, as the pandemic is not over. Therefore, Northampton Diocese are requesting that **we continue to operate as we are now.** We politely request that you continue to **follow requests by our dedicated stewarding team** whilst at church and continue to use the **hand sanitiser** available. We will still **encourage social distancing** and we ask that, if you are able, you **wear a face covering inside the church.** Please remember that there may be members of our parish family that still feel vulnerable and nervous in the current climate. As a Catholic community, we are obligated to "love our neighbour" and this has particular resonance now; as we continue to do all we can help everyone feel safe at Church.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales will be providing further guidance shortly, and we will continue to update you as and when we receive further information.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend - 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> JULY - ST VICENT DE PAUL SOCIETY -** Please place any donations in an envelope marked 'SVP' into the offering basket. Thank you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION -** We have 27 children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion at three special Masses this weekend! Please pray for them and for their families. It has been a blessed time of preparation, for which we give grateful thanks to our catechists and the parents who have journeyed with their children throughout. We pray for a blessed first encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist that will become a part of the natural rhythm of their everyday lives.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY - Next Weekend - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July -** At the start of 2021, Pope Francis instituted a world day for grandparents and the elderly. The day coincides with the feast day of St Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents.

There may be many elderly in our parishes who are lonely, frail and need our support and we are encouraged to focus specifically on them and their needs on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Pope Francis highlights the need for us to never forget our grandparents and elderly members of parish families. The Pope has always encouraged dialogue especially inter-generational dialogue which can bring a shared wisdom as conversations take place.

**THANK YOU -** Anne & Clive Mead would like to send their thanks for all your prayers and condolences on their recent bereavement. Your kindness and sympathies have been a comfort to them during this sad time.

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year- 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	
(Sat) 6.30pm	Paul & Rosetta Smith RIP
11.00am	Bernadette Simpson RIP
<b>Monday - Feria</b>	
No Public Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday - Feria</b>	
9.30am	Mabel Izzard (Anniversray)
<b>Thursday - ST MARY MAGDALENE</b>	
6.30pm	Maximciana Rocabo RIP
<b>Friday - ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN</b>	
No Public Mass	Eileen Cunliffe RIP
<b>Saturday - Feria</b>	
6.30pm	Bridget McCarthy RIP
<b>NEXT SUNDAY -Seventeenth Sunday of the Year</b>	
11.00am	Bonifacio Rocabo RIP

**FREE COVID19-TESTING -** There will be a number of mobile rapid/lateral flow testing sites throughout Luton this July. Please see the posters in the entrance hall for dates.

1 in 3 people have Covid-19 without any symptoms, and you can still pass the virus on even after being vaccinated. It is recommended that you take a Rapid/Lateral flow test twice a week, especially if you leave the house for work, shopping, caring or worship.

The test is quick, simple and FREE and you'll get the results in 30 minutes.

The pop-up centres will be open from Monday-Friday 8am-6pm and weekends 9am-5pm. You do not need to make an appointment. These centres are for people who have NO symptoms. Visit [www.luton.gov.uk/covid19-testing](http://www.luton.gov.uk/covid19-testing) for more information.

If you have Covid symptoms you should stay at home and book a FREE PCR test call 119 or [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus) PCR Test Sites are:

- Vicarage Road Car Park (University Campus) Vicarage Street, LU1 3HZ
- Hockwell Ring Community Centre, Mayne Avenue, Leagrave, LU4 9LB
- Bury Park Community Centre, 161-161b Dunstable Road, LU1 1BW
- Luton Airport Test Centre, Mid Stay Car Park, LU2 9QT

### 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 – Jeremiah 23:1-6

*The remnant of my flock I will gather and I will raise up shepherds to look after them.*

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them.

Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks! See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –

when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

## Responsorial Psalm – 22(23)

*THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.*

## Second Reading – Ephesians 2:13-18

*Christ Jesus is the peace between us, and has made the two into one.*

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God: in his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, *peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand.* Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

*THE SHEEP THAT BELONG TO ME LISTEN TO MY VOICE, SAYS THE LORD, I KNOW THEM AND THEY FOLLOW ME.*

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

## Gospel – Mark 6:30-34

*They were like sheep without a shepherd.*

The apostles re-joined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

### The Word of this week

"Sheep without a shepherd." This is the simple theme of today's readings. It is interesting that Jesus' reaction to the crowd is one of pity - as he sees their great thirst for his teachings. This is, in a sense, a clear fulfilment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading, where God promises a true shepherd who will care for the people of Israel. Shepherding is a particularly suitable image of God's love and care. The dependency of the sheep on their shepherd, their wandering and drifting without someone to guide them, is also a suitable image of the people God loves. Our own age also displays sheep without shepherds - a great wandering crowd, seeking something, but not knowing what they are seeking. It is to this flock that the present day followers of Jesus are sent as shepherds.

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

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

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)

*Please take this newsletter home with you.*