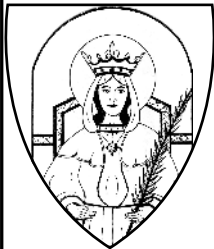


Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11
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Website: queenofmartyrs.org.uk



PASTORAL AREA of St Raphael and St Paul

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289
Blessed Sacrament 474 2682. St Teresa's 226 1354

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly.

Deacons: Chris Housbey & Malcolm Fletcher.

Safeguarding Representatives: Catherine Housbey & Malcolm Fletcher.

Week 27

2nd October 2022.

Reflections of The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4; Psalm 94; 2Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

In our first reading from the Prophet Habakkuk we are told that the "upright man will live by his faithfulness." At times we all struggle and wonder if God is present but the reading reminds us that God is always there even in the most difficult of moments. In our gospel text from St Luke we see Jesus exhorting the disciples to unwavering faith in response to their quest for greater faith. They had asked him to increase their faith but his reply puts the onus back on them to increase their own faith. Faith is a free gift from God to all of his sons and daughters but it is also a gift which we must work at if it is to achieve its potential in our lives.

In our second reading we see St Paul exhorting his readers to "fan into a flame the gift that God gave" them, a gift which was not a quiet thing but a thing of great power and love. This can be done with the assistance of the Holy Spirit if we but open our hearts to his power within us.

Feast of the Guardian Angels 2nd October



Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death. The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th - century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

Our Lady of the Rosary 2nd October

Saint Pius V established this feast in 1573. The purpose was to thank God for the victory of Christians over the Turks at Lepanto—a victory attributed to the praying of the rosary. Clement XI extended the feast to the universal Church in 1716. The development of the rosary has a long history. First a practice developed of praying 150 Our Fathers in imitation of the 150 Psalms. Then there was a parallel practice of praying 150 Hail Mary's. Soon a mystery of Jesus' life was attached to each Hail Mary. Though Mary's giving of the rosary to Saint Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of Saint Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century, the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries: joyful, sorrowful and glorious. In 2002, Pope John Paul II added the five Mysteries of Light to this devotion.

The purpose of the rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries.

CAFOD Family Fast Day World Food Crisis Appeal

Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. As each day goes by, the situation worsens. As people of faith we must act. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. Use the envelope for our parish collection or go to cafod.org.uk/fastday

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Season of Creation 1st September – 4th October

As reserves of more conventional oil and gas have dwindled, fracking is seen as a way of extracting even more of these polluting fuels. This has led to a fracking boom in the US, which the UK was keen to copy.

In November 2019, the government followed Scotland and Wales to halt fracking in England, after a report concluded that tremors cannot be controlled. The government lifted this ban on fracking in September 2022. Keep informed. Read the Statement from Friends of the Earth at www.friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/fracking-would-send-shockwaves-through-local-communities

Saint Francis of Assisi 4th October

The patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit, and without a sense of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth. Prayer led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down."

Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

Francis gave up all his possessions, piling even his clothes before his earthly father—who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor—so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, evoking sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said:

"Announce the kingdom! ~ Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no travelling bag, no sandals, no staff" (Luke 9:1-3).

Francis was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favour of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life, he died at 44, Francis was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, Francis said over and over again the last addition to his *Canticle of the Sun*, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior's permission to have his clothes removed when the last hour came in order that he could expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

Live Streaming System

All services are live streamed via Church Services TV. You can view Services via the link on our website, Facebook and Twitter sites or at www.churchservices.tv/croxteth

Liturgy for the Week

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin

Saturday 1st 6.00pm Henry Sherry (Anniv)
Sunday 2nd 11.30am James Jennings (Anniv)
Tuesday 4th 9.00am Eucharistic Service Ador of Blesses Sacrament
Saturday 8th 6.00pm Special Intention
Sunday 9th 11.30am Iris Felton

BAPTISM



***Millie Ann Ryan, Bella Catherine Ryan,
Francis Lee Hill, Marc Stephen Hill,
Noah Andrew Kennedy.***



Your prayers are asked for those who have

Died recently

Rose Torley, Rachel Robinson.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Alan Turner.

Please pray too for all those who are lonely or housebound and for those who are sick, at home or in hospital, especially.

Angela Adlen	Eileen Guy	Dave McLoughlin	Christine & David
Angela Gregory	Ellen Cooke	Paul & Kate	<u>Fitzsimmons</u>
Baby Bella	Janet Clark	Peter Fraser	Joan,
Bernie Boyde	John Murphy	Robbie Ross	Andreas <u>Samaras</u>
Brian Threlfall	Josie Dunne	Toni Dal	Margaret &
David Holgate	Kenny Morley	Joan Turner	Joseph <u>Maloney</u>
Diane Bell	Margaret Bradley	Canon Brendan Alger	Vassilis
Eddie Unsworth	Margaret Lace	David & Julie Pearce	<u>Alamaniotis</u>
G., + MP., + TC.,	Sr Edith Culliton	Eleanor Mawdsley	Ann Shreeve
		Peter & Jane Kelly	

This weekend we welcome Rachel Buckley from Aid to the Church in Need who will speak at mass and will be available for a chat at the back of church.