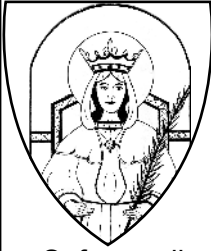


Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11
Tel: 546 3574 - Email: olqom@rcaol.org.uk
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.

Advent Week 2

4th December 2022

Reflections of The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

Our readings today give us two key people and two important role models for us. The first is Isaiah who spoke of the Lord's arrival and who, in his way, prepared the way for the Lord's coming. The second is John the Baptist – the Lord's own cousin – who is spoken of by Isaiah and who prepared the way for the Lord in the Lord's own time. Isaiah tells us that a time will come when there will be peace and integrity, faithfulness and equity. The Psalm reminds us that in the days of the Lord, "justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails." In the gospel we are introduced to John the Baptist who is preaching repentance and who directly challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees who come to him for baptism. He has a stark warning for them and for us that the Lord will sift through his people and separate the faithful from the unfaithful. He goes on to remind us that there will always be those who will be unfaithful. We are the successors to John and to his mission and by our baptismal promises we have taken on the duty to prepare the way in our own time for the Lord's imminent coming in power through the celebration of Christmas. Before we can be heralds of that great news we must first prepare a way for him to enter more deeply into our own hearts and we do that during these days of Advent. St Paul reminds us in the second reading that those who do not give up are helped in this work and so we too will be helped and strengthened if we continue to have faith in God and to work for the building of the kingdom.

The Advent Wreath

Today we light the Second of our Advent candles. Traditionally we will be lighting three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles represent the royalty of the coming King. The pink candle is the third candle to be lit on Gaudete Sunday and represents 'joy'. The gradual lighting of the four candles symbolises the coming light into the world. The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represent everlasting life.

Christmas Raffle 10th & 11th December All donations gratefully received.

Saint Nicholas 6th December

The absence of the “hard facts” of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to Saint Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honour him, and it is claimed that after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him—an admiration expressed in the colourful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man’s window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint’s feast. In the English-speaking countries, Saint Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus—further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It is now recognized as a solemnity. In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.” It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching. Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish Centre

The Warm and Cosy Wednesdays 1.30pm -3.30pm

Come and enjoy a cuppa and biscuits. Safe, warm, friendly space for anyone to sit, read comfortably, study play games, work, charge your phone, or chat with others. Open to everyone in our community. Free of charge.

Mary's Meals

Join our Big Family Christmas and help feed hungry children with Mary's Meals. For just £15.90 you can set a place for yourself or a loved one at our virtual Christmas dinner table. Your name will appear online and you'll receive a beautiful PDF placemat to pass on as a gift.

And, with Double The Love, donations to Mary's Meals until 31 January 2023 are being matched by a group of generous supporters – up to £1.5 million.

This means each place set will feed two children with life-changing school meals for a whole year!

CAROL SERVICE

Please join us on Wednesday, 14th December 6.30pm for an Advent Carol Service in church, followed by mince pies and a festive drink.

All welcome

St John Bosco Christmas Party

Wednesday 14th December, 12 noon

If you would like to go put your name on the list in the piety stall and take a ticket.

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation 2023 Enrolment continues each weekend during Advent.

FOODBANK

Thank you to all those who continue to contribute to our foodbank collection.

All donations are passed on to our local centre at Good Shepherd, which is open each Wednesday Morning.

All items are needed and especially long life milk, instant mash, tinned meat and toiletries for both women and men.

The Council Healthy Homes Team

can provide free help and advice to people struggling to pay fuel bills. They can share tips for saving energy and keeping warm. Also they may be able to help with replacement windows and boilers. Visit: <http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/housing/fuel-poverty-and-energy-efficiency/> or call 0800 0121 754

Those who have been entered into the Perpetual Mass Book during November

Ellen Jones	Pat Renees	Brian Coughlin	Leslie Mullis	James Boland
Ann Jones	Alan Cotter	William Dooley	Sara Moore	Teresa Wells
Tony King	Tony Butler	Kenny Newport	Alby Roberts	William Fagan
Tony Baker	David Berry	Dawn Brannigan	Mrs Graham	Jai Donaghan
Jamie Reid	Mrs Obrien	Dave McLoughlin	Robert Jones	Jackie Forest
Rose Torley	Mary Mutch	Maureen Redhead	Joe Colothan	Sarah Corson

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Give a gift of hope this Christmas

Please consider buying a Christmas presents from World Gifts catalogue.

Copies are available at the back of church next to the Parish collection bucket.

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	3rd	6.00pm	Dave McLoughlin LD
Sunday	4th	11.30am	Chrissie McHarron LD
Tuesday	6th	9.00am	Eucharistic Service followed by Adoration
Wednesday	7th	7.00pm	Mass: Intentions of Salesian Sisters
Thursday	8th	11.30am	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday	9th	12noon	Funeral: Vincent Walker
Saturday	10th	6.00pm	Tony Starkey LD
Sunday	11th	11.30am	Gerry Coyne



Caleb Edward Ellison



Your prayers are asked for those who have

Died recently

Sarah Corson, Tony Baker, Mrs O'Brien,
Kenny Newport, Vincent Walker,
Anthony Michael O'Brien,
John Wilson.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Mary Best, Ann & Frank Doran,
Marie Shutt (B'day).

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