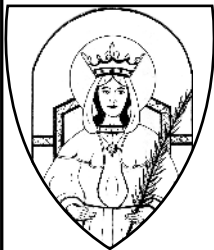


Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



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 3

11th December 2022

Reflections of The Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

The tone of our celebration for today is one of rejoicing at the fact that the coming of the Lord is very near. In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, the prophet is exalting the people to rejoice and to be glad for their God is coming to them. On that day “the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.” The excerpt we have from St James’ letter calls on the people to be patient and of joyful heart because the Lord is coming. He tells them that this should not just be for a time only but as a way of life for all time because in this way we will live the sort of lives which God asks of us and will encourage others to follow our example.

We again have the Baptist in our gospel for today but this time he appears to be somewhat unsure about Christ. He sends his own disciples to find out if Jesus is the Christ. The reply which Jesus sends is based very much on the scriptures, particularly the prophet Isaiah, and Jesus tells them to tell his cousin what they have seen – the blind being given sight, the lame walking again. Christ is the reason why we rejoice, he is the reason why we make an effort to amend our lives each year because it is he who is our Saviour and who will raise us with him to eternal life.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Any old hats, gloves or scarves? The Mother of Mercy would be very grateful for any donations of hats, gloves or scarves, they don't have to be new. With the temperatures plummeting and more and more people living on the streets there is a need for these small items which Jayne and the gang can hand out when they take out sandwiches and a hot drink each Tuesday and Friday.

Please place in the box at the back of church.

Thank you.

Christmas Raffle this weekend.

**Please buy tickets
before Mass
as raffle will be drawn
at the end of Mass**

**All proceeds to
Mother of Mercy Society**

Our Lady of Guadalupe 12th December



The feast in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story. A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honour of Our Lady. Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and

within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared. Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma. On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2022, Volunteering.

In our busy lives, volunteering can feel like something that is just too difficult to fit in. But if we all made a small amount of time each month to volunteer for a charitable cause, the world would obviously be a much better place. This month Pope Francis tells us, "Being a volunteer who helps others is a choice that makes us free; it opens us to other people's needs — to the demands of justice, to the defence of the poor, to the care of creation. It means being artisans of mercy: with our hands, with our eyes, with our attentive ears, with our closeness."

This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer, "...That volunteer not-for-profit and human development organizations may find people willing to commit themselves to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths of international cooperation."

Woodlands Hospice

Trish Hill has very kindly made a tree for the wall in church which is going to be decorated with paper baubles.

You can write a Christmas message or dedication on to a bauble and give a donation, if desired, which will be sent to Woodlands Hospice.

There are baubles at the back of church.

God Who Speaks

New resources including 2 new Bible and Art videos on The Madonna and Child and The Nativity; a look at the 'O Antiphons' and a variety of family activities:

- Advent - www.godwhospeaks.uk/advent/
- Christmastide - www.godwhospeaks.uk/christmas/
- Videos:
 - The Madonna and Child - www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-madonna-and-child/
 - The Nativity - www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-nativity/
- New Sunday Reflections series by David Jackson - www.godwhospeaks.uk/sunday-reflections/
- Good Work: Working Towards the Common Good - www.godwhospeaks.uk/friday-working-towards-the-common-good/
- This month David McLoughlin tackles legislation for workers' rights and our vocation to image God's creative love in all our relationships, including our place of work.
- Psalms for December – The Spirituality Committee continues its Psalm project, See attachment
- Bible Society Christmas resources here - www.godwhospeaks.uk/saints-seasons-christmas-celebrate-christmas-with-bible-society/

Crisis at Christmas

Because of the escalating cost of living, this Christmas will not be a happy Christmas for lots of people. Consider:- Putting extra treats into the local food banks for people who have little or nothing. Agree with friends and family who you know might be struggling, not to buy each other a present this Christmas. There isn't a present that's worth going into the red for.

Care for Our Common Home

Have A Green Christmas. Save Money.

Save the Planet. Choose the least expensive wrapping paper from a bargain store or street trader. Take care not to buy foil paper or paper with glitter in it. This cannot be recycled. Where possible re-use all the wine bags and gift bags that are lying around the house from this time last year.

The cost of buying new ones all adds up, and often all that is needed is an inventive new label.

Justice and Peace Advent Reflection Resources

Prepared for the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales, this has an A4 sheet for each week of Advent on the themes: living in harmony with nature; inviting Christ into our lives; waiting with joyful expectation; and bringing hope.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ADVENT-REFLECTIONS-2022.pdf>

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	10th	6.00pm	Tony Starkey
Sunday	11th	11.30am	Gerry Coyne
Tuesday	13th	9.00am	Eucharistic Service followed by Adoration
Wednesday	14th	12.15pm	Funeral: Anthony Michael O'Brien
Wednesday	14th	6.30pm	Enjoy Carol Service
Saturday	17th	6.00pm	Eric Warren, Anthony Conder
Sunday	18th	11.30am	Sarah Corson L.D.



*Theo Jose Cottrell,
Cloe Nicole Cottrell,
Lucinda Hope Cottrell*



Your prayers are asked for those who have

Died recently

Sarah Corson, Betty O'Donovan,
Beatrice Alice O'Donovan ,
Nicola Brocklehurst,
Christine Anne Owens.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Brother Alban , Ann Grierson,
William Lill, Marlene Fielding
Mary & Alan Best. (Anniv & Wed Anniv

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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