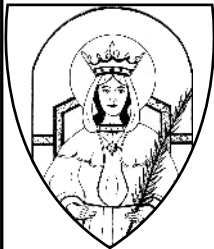


# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



**Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11**  
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## **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 4**

**18th December 2022**

## **Reflections of The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

In our first reading for today we read of an encounter between God and Ahaz, king of Judah. In the encounter, God tells Ahaz to ask for whatever he wants but Ahaz refuses to put the Lord to the test. As a result, the Lord tells him and the House of David that a maiden will give birth to a son who will be Emmanuel. In the gospel from St Matthew, we have another encounter, this time between Joseph and God's messenger. Joseph now knows that Mary is pregnant but the angel tells him to go through with the marriage for the child was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and his name will be Emmanuel. In the second reading from his letter to the Romans, St Paul tells his readers that he is writing to tell them about the Son of God who is a descendent of King David and who has the power of God. These three readings all refer to Jesus Christ whose birth as a human being we are about to celebrate. It is a reminder that there is now very little time to make our real preparations to worthily celebrate the season of Christmas.

## **Give the Gift of Joy**

Make sure over the Christmas period to take time to think about someone who isn't having such a great time. Christmas isn't much fun if you've lost a loved one, if you're not feeling too well, if you're miles away from home or if you are elderly and alone. Take time out this Christmas to make sure that vulnerable friends, family or neighbours are all right. It doesn't take much to bring a little joy .... a phone call, an invitation for Christmas dinner or drinks, time spent in a visit or doing a little food shopping for someone who has trouble getting out ..... Giving of yourself and of your time is a gift money can't buy.

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish Centre**

**Don't Forget. Warm and Cosy Wednesdays 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

## **Blessed Urban V. 19<sup>th</sup> December**

In 1362, the man elected pope declined the office. When the cardinals could not find another person among them for that important office, they turned to a relative stranger: the holy person we honour today.

The new Pope Urban V proved a wise choice. A Benedictine monk and canon lawyer, he was deeply spiritual and brilliant. He lived simply and modestly, which did not always earn him friends among clergymen who had become used to comfort and privilege. Still, he pressed for reform, and saw to the restoration of churches and monasteries. Except for a brief period he spent most of his eight years as pope living away from Rome at Avignon, seat of the papacy from 1309, until shortly after his death.

Urban came close, but was not able to achieve one of his biggest goals—reuniting the Eastern and Western churches.

As pope, Urban continued to follow the Benedictine Rule. Shortly before his death in 1370, he asked to be moved from the papal palace to the nearby home of his brother, so he could say goodbye to the ordinary people he had so often helped. Simplicity in the midst of power and grandeur seems to define this saint, as he reluctantly accepted the papacy, but remained at heart a Benedictine monk. Surroundings need not negatively influence a person.

### **Christmas Raffle**

Thank you to all who donated items and bought tickets for our Christmas Raffle. We raised over £200 which will be spent on the homeless people who are visited each Tuesday by The Mother of Mercy Group.

We will continue to collect hats, scarves and gloves.

### **The Parish of St. Agnes and St Aidan,**

LGBT+ Social Group's final gathering of 2022 will take place next weekend. We will be hosting a Christmas party filled with festive music, games, snacks and beverages. We want to celebrate the Holidays with members and allies of the LGBT+ community, so please invite your family and friends to show their support as it will be an Open Meeting. This meeting will be on Sunday 18th December at 6pm in the Sister Elizabeth Kelly Room at St. Agnes RC Church, 82 Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, L36 5SQ.

### **Collections This Year**

Day for Life £34  
Holy Places £95.50  
Peter's Pence £39.80  
Animate Youth £118.13  
Home Missions £101.94  
Catholic Education £46.57  
Priest's Retirement £176.41  
APF World Missions £731.35  
World Communications £79.65

### **Raised by Our Parish**

### **Carol Service**

#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Everyone had a beautiful Carol Concert last Wednesday evening.

Lovely to join in with the choir singing all the carols we know and then hear St. Swithin's children's voices, taking us back to our own childhoods.

## **Saint Dominic of Silos 20<sup>th</sup> December**

It's not the founder of the Dominicans we honour today, but there's a poignant story that connects both Dominics. Our saint today, Dominic of Silos, was born in Spain around the year 1000 into a peasant family. As a young boy he spent time in the fields, where he welcomed the solitude. He became a Benedictine priest and served in numerous leadership positions. Following a dispute with the king over property, Dominic and two other monks were exiled. They established a new monastery in what at first seemed an unpromising location. Under Dominic's leadership, however, it became one of the most famous houses in Spain. Many healing's were reported there. About 100 years after Dominic's death, a young woman who experienced difficult pregnancies made a pilgrimage to his tomb. There Dominic of Silos appeared to her and assured her that she would bear another son. The woman was Joan of Aza, and the son she bore grew up to be the "other" Dominic—Dominic Guzman, the one who founded the Dominicans. For hundreds of years thereafter, the staff used by Saint Dominic of Silos was brought to the royal palace whenever a queen of Spain was in labour. That practice ended in 1931.

## **The Story of Christmas at Greccio 24<sup>th</sup> December**

What better way to prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child than to take a brief journey to Greccio, the spot in central Italy where Saint Francis of Assisi created the first Christmas crib in the year 1223. Francis, recalling a visit he had made years before to Bethlehem, resolved to create the manger he had seen there. The ideal spot was a cave in nearby Greccio. He would find a baby—we're not sure



if it was a live infant or the carved image of a baby—hay upon which to lay him, an ox and an ass to stand beside the manger. Word went out to the people of the town. At the appointed time, they arrived carrying torches and candles. One of the friars began celebrating Mass. Francis himself gave the sermon. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, recalls that Francis "stood before the manger...overcome with love and filled with a wonderful happiness..." For Francis, the simple celebration was meant to recall the hardships Jesus suffered even as an infant, a saviour who chose to become poor for our sake, a truly human Jesus. Tonight, as we pray around the Christmas cribs in our homes, we welcome into our hearts that same Savior.

God's choice to give human beings free will was from the beginning a decision to be helpless in human hands. With the birth of Jesus, God made the divine helplessness very clear to us, for a human infant is totally dependent on the loving response of other people. Our natural response to a baby is to open our arms as Francis did—to the infant of Bethlehem, and to the God who made us all.

## 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](http://www.churchservices.tv/croxteth)

## Liturgy for the Week

### Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Eric Warren, Anthony Conder.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Brian Monaghan, Sarah Corson L D
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Eucharistic Service followed by Adoration
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Mass: Mary & Alan Best (Anniv & Wed Anniv)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1.50pm</b>	Funeral Service: Christine Ann Owens
<b>Friday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Parish Penance Service
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Sr Edith C.P. (S.I)
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>		Hilary Gordon
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Margaret Sherry (Anniv)

Thank you God for the hands to serve, and far more blessings than we deserve.  
Thank you for the legs to run, the race of life until it's won.

**Your prayers are asked for those who have**

### Died recently

John Rodwell, Nickie Brocklehurst,  
Christine Owens, Honor Evans.

### Anniversaries and Birthdays

Margaret Sherry, Brian Monaghan.  
Louisa Hough

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