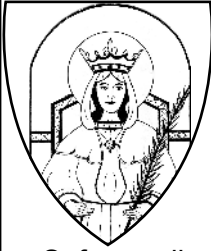


# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



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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.**

**Week 04**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## **The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13; Psalm 145; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12

The first reading from Zephaniah speaks to us about acting with humility and being honest before the Lord. Those who live by humility and seek the Lord will find shelter in the Lord and uninterrupted rest. In our gospel passage from St Matthew, we have the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. As well as being a well known passage it is a radical way of living, something that could bring great good to our world but only if people choose to live it. Matthew tells us that the sermon took place on top of a mountain reminding us of Moses, and the fact that Jesus was seated which emphasises his authority. The connection between this and the first reading is the theme of humility.

St Paul tells us in the second reading from his second letter to the Corinthians that God often chooses what we regard as something foolish or lowly and turns it into something great, such as humility or what many regard as weakness or foolishness. Paul tells us that what the world regards as foolish and weak is actually turned into something powerful and transforming by the Lord.

## **God Calling 29<sup>th</sup> January – I Clear the Path**

I am thy shield. Have no fear. You must know that "All is well." I will never let anyone do to you both, other than My Will for you. I can see the future. I can read men's hearts. I know better than you what you need. Trust me absolutely. You are not at the mercy of Fate, or buffeted about by others. You are being led in a very definite way, and others, who do not serve your purpose, are being moved out of your Path by Me. Never fear, whatever may happen. You are both being led. Do not try to plan. I have planned. You are the builder, not the Architect. Go very quietly, very gently. All is for the very best for you. Trust me for all. Your very extremity will ensure My activity for you. And having your foundation on the Rock – Christ, Faith in Him, and "being rooted and grounded in Him," and having belief in My Divinity as your Corner Stone, it is yours to build, knowing all is well. Literally, you have to depend on Me for everything – everything. It was out of the depths that David cried unto Me, and I heard his voice. All is well.

## The Presentation of the Lord 2<sup>nd</sup> February



At the end of the fourth century, a woman named Etheria made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her journal, discovered in 1887, gives an unprecedented glimpse of liturgical life there. Among the celebrations she describes is the Epiphany, the observance of Christ's birth, and the gala procession in honour of his Presentation in the Temple 40 days later. Under the Mosaic Law, a woman was ritually "unclean" for 40 days after childbirth, when she was to present herself to the priests and offer sacrifice—her "purification." Contact with anyone who had brushed against mystery—birth or death—excluded a person from Jewish worship. This feast emphasizes Jesus' first appearance in the Temple more than Mary's purification.

The observance spread throughout the Western Church in the fifth and sixth centuries. Because the Church in the West celebrated Jesus' birth on December 25, the Presentation was moved to February 2, 40 days after Christmas.

At the beginning of the eighth century, Pope Sergius inaugurated a candlelight procession; at the end of the same century the blessing and distribution of candles which continues to this day became part of the celebration, giving the feast its popular name: Candlemas.

### Reflection

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end.

## First Holy Communion Preparation

Thanks to everyone who can to our first session on Saturday.

For anyone who missed the session or wishes to sign up, Catherine and Jacqui are running a catch-up on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 5-30pm – 6.30pm in Church.

If you miss this date unfortunately your child will have to wait until next year.

## CAFOD World Gifts

Thank you for your donations to our World Gifts campaign. We raised over £126 and have purchased a self-watering garden, a greenhouse and support for women refugees.

## Peace Through The Family

What A Happy World this would be if we all lived in peace! Don't we all want peace? But world peace only be a reality when the smallest unit - the family - is at peace. So the goal is every man, woman and child, is to live in harmony with with each other. World peace begins with ME!

**"Let us love one another" 1 Jn. 3:7**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER** As I have loved you, serve one another not just few.

## **Saint John Bosco 31<sup>st</sup> January**

John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play. Encouraged during his youth in Turin to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan in Turin, and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.



After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, Don Bosco opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring. By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. John's interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers. John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales. With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

## **Finding a Shepherd in a Crowd**

**When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6:34**

On a recent retreat, a priest asked this seemingly simple question:

What does it mean to love God? A stillness fell over our small group. For although we talk of "loving God" often, none of us had a ready answer. After all, what of value can we possibly give to the Creator of the universe and the Lover of our souls?

But the priest's answer made instant sense: We love God, he said, by letting God love us. Sheep without a shepherd have nowhere to turn when they are scared, confused or lost. That's the pity Jesus saw in the eyes of the crowd. They didn't-yet-know they were loved.

Jesus, be my Good Shepherd.

*Living Faith Saturday 4th February by Steve Givens*

## **Tuesdays Eucharistic Service and Adoration**

Apologies, the Eucharistic Service and Adoration is cancelled for this week. Next Tuesday 7th February it will be back as usual everyone is very welcome.

## 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>28<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Tony O'Brien                            |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>29<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>11.30am</b> | Stephen Critchley (LD)                  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b> | <b>7.00pm</b>  | Brian McDonald                          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>     | <b>10.00am</b> | Funeral Service: John Carter            |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>6.00pm</b>  | Dave McLoughlin, Christine Finigan (LD) |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>11.30am</b> | Parishioners Intentions                 |

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

### **Died recently**

Fr Dave Melly, Mary Jones,  
Nikkita Wright, Joseph Doran,  
Christine Finigan, Stephen Critchley,  
Brian Threlfall, Valerie Baron, Alex Eden,  
James Bennett, John Carter, Alison Jones,

### **Anniversaries and Birthdays**

Marie Howard,  
Mary Muir, Mary Quinn,  
James King, Marie Leader,  
Alice MaGee, Jon Mulhall,  
Mary Mowsley, Joan Shimmin,

**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>           | <i><u>Fitzsimmons</u></i>     |
| 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>       | <i><u>Alamaniotis</u></i>     |
| <i>G., + MP., + TC.,</i> | <i>Sr Edith Culliton</i> | <i>Peter &amp; Jane Kelly</i> | <i>Ann Shreeve</i>            |

### **A Prayer For God's Presence.**

Heavenly Father, You are the God who sees us. Even now, as we hurt, You are with us. Thank You for Your comfort and Your peace, even in the most difficult of days. Help us feel Your Presence with us now. Help us understand Your unwavering love for us. Give us the strength and the courage to persevere so we might comfort others through our testimony. **In Jesus' name, Amen.**