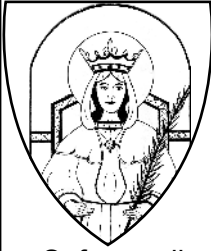


Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



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.



Lent Week 4

19th March 2023.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday

1 Samuel 16:6-7, 10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

In the text for our first reading today from the book of the Prophet Samuel we see Samuel out looking for a successor to Saul – Israel's king. He goes to Jesse of Bethlehem who presents each of his sons except the youngest who is out minding the herd. However, the Lord chooses none of those presented but instead singles out the youngest boy – David – for service as the anointed King of Israel. St Paul reminds us in the second reading from his letter to the Ephesians, that, as Christians, we are children of the light (that is, of Christ) and that we are to live by that light in all things. Only by right living can we really be children of the light and know what path the Lord is marking out for us in this life. In our gospel text for today we see Jesus on a Sabbath day giving sight to a man born blind. The miracle itself receives little print but the reaction of the Pharisees and officials receives a lot of print as John records for us that reaction. The Pharisees maintained that the man had been born blind because of sins committed either by his parents or by himself, though Jesus tells us that this was not the case. They question the man and his parents and the man answers back quite strongly and so receives a rough time from the Pharisees. This incident began to drive a wedge among some of the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the followers of Christ. The first reading and gospel remind us that how we perceive the world is not always how God perceives it and that often times God chooses those whom the world rejects (such as the boy David) to lead his people.

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Ideas for a Carbon Fast.

- **Plan a meal with food that has not had to travel by plane.**
- **Enjoy sustainable harvested fish.**

**Consider how you can make this a part of each Friday
this Lent**

- **Share a vegetarian recipe with a friend**

Saint Joseph 19th March



The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really “right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not. By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

Saint Oscar Romero 24th March



The night before he was murdered while celebrating Mass, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador said on the radio: “I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is given by a man, the law of God that says ‘Do not kill!’ should prevail.

“No soldier is obliged to obey an order counter to the law of God. No one has to comply with an immoral law. It is the time now that you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin. . . . Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you! In the name of God: ‘Cease the repression!’”

Simultaneously, Romero had eloquently upheld the gospel and effectively signed his own death warrant.

When he was appointed archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, Bishop Romero was considered a very “safe” choice. He had served as auxiliary bishop there for four years before his three years as bishop of Santiago de Maria.

CAFOD's Lent Appeal 2023

Thank you for your generosity – we raised £397.49!

Here are some examples of how the money may be used.

£26 can build a raised seed bed that will protect vegetables from floods.

£40 can provide 16 palm trees –

enough to protect a community from extreme weather.

To donate online visit:- [Cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-cafod/lent-appeal](https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-cafod/lent-appeal)

Good Friday 'Soup & a Roll' for CAFOD

Come and join Joan Darwent & Pat Threlfall in the Community Room after The Walk of Witness, (approx. 12.45pm) for a bowl of soup and a chat. If you'd like to make a bowl of soup to share, please let Joan know.

All money raised will be given to CAFOD .

H.C.P.T.

Easter collection raised £305.50

On behalf of Group 133, thank you to all those who contributed.

A petition box is located at the back of church and will remain until Good Friday.

Petitions will then be taken to Lourdes.

MUSIC AT THE MET LENT 2023

Join us throughout Lent for a special programme of sacred music sung by our Cathedral Choir All at 15:00

Sunday 19 March: Stabat Mater – Pergolesi

Sunday 26 March: Lamentations of Jeremiah – Tallis

**Grand Mother's Day Raffle this weekend
All proceeds to Lourdes Fund**

God made moms generous,
strong, and caring -
shining through them.
and blessing their families
with His amazing love

Happy Mother's Day

"A mother is she who
can take the place of all others
but whose place
no one else can take."

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	18th	6.00pm	Barney Whitehead & Marie O'Connell (Sick)
Sunday	19th	11.30am	Stan Jones L.D.
Tuesday	21st	9.00am	Eucharistic Service & Adoration until 3pm
Wednesday	22nd	10.20am	Funeral Denis O'Connor
		6.30pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.00pm	Holy Souls
Thursday	23rd	9.00am	Bernadette Monague
Saturday	25th	6.00pm	Joseph Jones L.D.
Sunday	26th	11.30am	Special Intention J. & B. C

Your prayers are asked for those who have

Died recently

Nuala Suleyman.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Lily White, Edward Cummins,
Lawrence Crist.

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

Diane Bell Eileen Guy Bernie Boyde Angela Adlen David Holgate Margaret Lace Angela Gregory Eddie Unsworth Marie O'Connell	Paul & Kate Ellen Cooke Janet Clark Josie Dunne Joan Turner Julie Pearce Kenny Morley John Murphy Sr Edith Culliton	Toni Dal June Fee Robbie Ross Peter Fraser Ann Shreeve G., + MP., + TC., Peter & Jane Kelly Marie O'Shaunessy Canon Brendan Alger	Christine & David <u>Fitzsimmons</u> Joan, Andreas <u>Samaras</u> Margaret & Joseph <u>Maloney</u> Vassilis <u>Alamaniotis</u>
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Altar Servers

Please come to Mass 15 minutes before the start, so we can run through our duties.

Training will be on Friday 31st March, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
for existing altar servers or anyone over the age of 9 who wishes to become one.