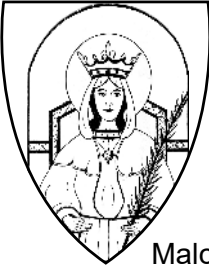


# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.

Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11

Tel: 546 3574 - Email: [olqom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:olqom@rcaol.org.uk)

Website: [queenofmartyrs.org.uk](http://queenofmartyrs.org.uk)



## PASTORAL AREA of St Raphael and St Paul

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289

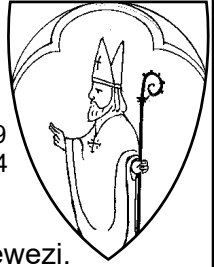
Blessed Sacrament 474 2682. St Teresa's 226 1354

**Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly.**

### **Deacons:**

Malcolm Fletcher, Chris Housbey and Justin Malewezi.

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Malcolm Fletcher and Catherine Housbey.



**Week 21**

**27th August 2023.**

## **The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

Our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah sees the Lord removing the key of the House of David from Shebna and giving it to Eliakim because the former had been a poor keeper of the key and servant of God. Eliakim is given full authority and whatever he closes will remain closed and whatever he opens will remain open. A similar scene is found in the gospel text from St Matthew in that, following his great profession of faith, St Peter is given the keys of the kingdom by Christ. The Lord tells Peter and his successors that whatever he binds on earth will be considered bound in heaven and whatever he should loose on earth will be considered loosed in heaven. Peter is also made the rock on which the Church is to be built.

In the second reading from St Paul to the Romans, Paul tells us that everything that exists comes from God, everything is by God and everything is for God. Our passage concludes with Paul telling us that it is to God that we should give glory for ever.

## **Exam Results**

When you look at the people who make the world go round, you may be surprised at the exams that they did or didn't manage to pass. As you get older you realise that it isn't the exams in themselves that were important but how you moved forward from that point.

This of course is difficult for teenagers to believe when the importance of exams has been drummed into them from the earliest youth. We offer our prayers this week for our younger parishioners who have just received exam results. We praise their efforts, and we support them in whatever they want to do next.

## **CARE FOR THE FAMILY**

An evening with Rob Parsons. Join Rob Parsons on a journey through the decades as he reflects on a life of both laughter and tears. Discover renewed purpose and hear essential timeless truths that will stay with you long after the evening. For date and more information [cff.org.uk/robparsons](http://cff.org.uk/robparsons) or pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

## **The Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist 29<sup>th</sup> August**



The drunken oath of a king with a shallow sense of honor, a seductive dance and the hateful heart of a queen combined to bring about the martyrdom of John the Baptist. The greatest of prophets suffered the fate of so many Old Testament prophets before him: rejection and martyrdom. The “voice crying in the

desert” did not hesitate to accuse the guilty, did not hesitate to speak the truth. But why? What possesses a man that he would give up his very life?

This great religious reformer was sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah. His vocation was one of selfless giving. The only power that he claimed was the Spirit of Yahweh. “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11).

Scripture tells us that many people followed John looking to him for hope, perhaps in anticipation of some great messianic power. John never allowed himself the false honor of receiving these people for his own glory. He knew his calling was one of preparation. When the time came, he led his disciples to Jesus: “The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God.’ The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus” (John 1:35-37). It is John the Baptist who has pointed the way to Christ. John’s life and death were a giving over of self for God and other people. His simple style of life was one of complete detachment from earthly possessions. His heart was centered on God and the call that he heard from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God’s grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation, repentance, and salvation.

### **Snack & Stay or Snack Away**

Our Parish Centres will be open during the school holidays to provide free snacks for children: sandwiches, fruit, crisps and tea and biscuits for parents.

For more information visit: [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

### **‘Catholic Listeners’ is a confidential telephone helpline service**

Is set up for those Catholics who want to return to the faith and need a safe space to be heard. The helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are welcoming, friendly, empathetic and non-judgemental. Operating three days a week from 4.00 – 7.00 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, calls are free to the helpline on 0800 448 0704 or by email at [catholiclisteners@gmail.com](mailto:catholiclisteners@gmail.com)

### **UK Volunteering Opportunities with Vinspired**

Vinspired is the UK’s leading volunteering charity for 14 - 25 year olds. Vinspired helps young people to make their mark on causes that they care about, whilst learning new skills and talents along the way. Check it out at [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

## **Saints Joseph of Arimathea's and Nicodemus 31<sup>st</sup> August**

The actions of these two influential Jewish leaders give insight into the charismatic power of Jesus and his teachings—and the risks that could be involved in following him.



Joseph was a respected, wealthy civic leader who had become a disciple of Jesus. Following the death of Jesus, Joseph obtained Jesus' body from Pilate, wrapped it in fine linen and buried it. For these reasons, Joseph is considered the patron saint of funeral directors and pallbearers. More important is the courage Joseph showed in asking Pilate for Jesus' body. Jesus was a condemned criminal who had been publicly executed. According to some legends, Joseph was punished and imprisoned for such a bold act.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and, like Joseph, an important first-century Jew. We know from John's Gospel that Nicodemus went to Jesus at night—secretly—to better understand his teachings about the kingdom. Later, he spoke up for Jesus at the time of his arrest and assisted in Jesus' burial. We know little else about Nicodemus.

### *Reflection*

Celebrating these two contemporaries of Jesus who played significant roles in Jesus' life, reminds us of the humanity of Jesus and how he related to his fellow men and women. His gentleness to these two and his acceptance of their help remind us that he treats us in the same gentle way.

Saints Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are Patron Saints of:  
Funeral Directors. Pallbearers.

## **God Calling 1<sup>st</sup> September – How Rich You Are**

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. – Hebrews 13:5

My children, that word is unfailingly true. Down the centuries thousands have proved My constancy, My untiringness, My unfailing Love. "Never leave." "Never forsake." Not just a Presence is meant by this, but ...

My Love will never leave you, My Understanding will never leave you, My Strength will never leave you. Think of all that I am:

**Love** – then forever you are sure of Love.

**Strength** – then forever, in every difficulty and danger, you are sure of strength.

**Patience** – then always there is One who can never tire.

Understanding – then always you will be understood.

Can you fear the future when it holds so much for you? Beloved, "set your affections on things above" (the higher, spiritual things), "and not on things on the earth" (the lower, temporal things), and you will see how rich you are.

Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called;

I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. – Isaiah 48:12

## **Lourdes 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage Reunion Mass**

Sunday 10th September, 5pm, St Mary's, Lowe House, St Helens

## 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>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Janet Clarke L.D. & Brian Threlfall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Linda Holmes
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.15pm</b>	Funeral: Janet Mary Clarke
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Sept 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Funeral: Kenneth Foulton
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>02<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Catherine Carroll L.D.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>03<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Francis Doran B'day Rem

## BAPTISM



*Aria Jane Caveney, Penelope O'Keefe,  
Liam-John O'Keefe,  
Phoebe Edeghoghon Ehireimhe-Martin,  
Freya Joan Forester*



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

### Died recently

Maureen Mee, Eileen Kelly.

### Anniversaries and Birthdays

Francis Doran, Eddie & Babs Wright.

**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 Moya Russell Bernie Boyde Angela Adlen David Holgate Margaret Lace Angela Gregory Marie O'Connell	Paul & Kate Ellen Cooke Janet Clark Josie Dunne Joan Turner Julie Pearce John Murphy Sr Edith Culliton G., + MP., + TC.,	Toni Dal Joan Foster Robbie Ross Peter Fraser Ann Shreeve Michelle Roehrig Peter & Jane Kelly Marie O'Shaunessy	Christine & David <u>Fitzsimmons</u> Margaret & Joseph <u>Maloney</u> Vassilis <u>Alamaniotis</u> Joan, Andreas <u>Samaras</u>
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