

# 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:**

Malcolm Fletcher, Chris Housbey and Justin Malewezi.

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

**Advent Week 3**

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

## **Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday**

*Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Psalm – Luke 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;*

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

The readings for this third Sunday of Advent anticipate the joy of the Second Coming of Jesus, our Lord – hence the name “Gaudete” – Rejoice. The first reading is the text Jesus quoted to announce his mission as the anointed Messiah, the one sent to bring good news to the poor and liberty to captives. The Psalm, which is Mary’s Magnificat, echoes the joy of the first reading, praising God for the wonderful things he has done for her and for all the people of Israel. The gospel describes John the Baptist as a witness of Jesus, a voice crying in the wilderness and calling people to conversion and baptism, but also recognizing that he is not worthy to undo the sandal of the one who comes after him, the one who will baptize people with the Holy Spirit. The second reading invites us to see our Christian life, not just as a series of obligations towards God and neighbour, but as a joyful and prayerful way of life, recognising and thanking God for the many gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**A very Happy 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Pope Francis.**



*Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
and St Swithin's parishioners  
pray you are feeling a a great  
deal better today than lately.*

*We pray for you:*

*Angel of God, our guardian so dear,  
to whom His love commits us here,  
ever this day be at our side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide.*

## **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 healings 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.

### *Reflection*

Saint Dominic of Silos' connection with the Saint Dominic who founded the Dominican Order brings to mind the film *Six Degrees of Separation*: We are all connected it seems. God's providential care can bring people together in mysterious ways, but it all points to his love for each of us.

## **Parish Advent and Christmas Appeal 2023**

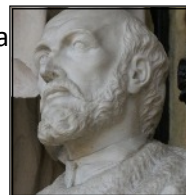
At Christmas we are reminded that Jesus was born in a stable and sadly today there are many babies who have a similar start to their lives as they are born into poverty. We would like to support Baby Basics in the period up to Christmas. This organisation, run by volunteers at Freedom Church Liverpool, supports vulnerable new mothers who have been referred to them by midwives, health visitors and other medical professionals. The focus is on newborn babies and they make up packs in Moses baskets to give to these Mums..i f you are able, could you possibly choose an item from this list, wrap it in Christmas paper and place it under the tree. All donations will be taken to Baby Basics after Christmas. Please don't feel you have to spend a lot, or anything if you have a suitable used item.

- Any item of clothing for newborn babies including baby grows, winter coats, snow suits, socks, bibs, booties. Used items are also welcome as long as they are clean and stain free. - Baby toiletries, wipes, cotton wool. - Nappies - size 1 or 2. - Newborn blanket. - First soft toy. - Baby towel. - Muslins. - Cot covers.

If you happen to have a used Moses basket with a stand that is in good condition they would also be glad to receive that. Please remove the mattress. Thank you,

## Saint John of Kanty 23<sup>rd</sup> December

John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life. John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. Later John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.



### *Reflection*

John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble, and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas at least is a good time to reject self-indulgence.

## A Hand of Friendship at Christmas

This Christmas can we bring two groups together? People who are unable to get to mass because of mobility problems and people who can give a lift. If you are able to give someone a lift to one of the Christmas masses, please give your name and number to Malcolm, Chris or Justin if you know of anyone who would like a lift, give their name and number to the deacons. We can put people in touch with each other.

### Feeding Liverpool

Deacon Andrew Cleary, has sent this message , "This Christmas, we are asking people to join together to support Feeding Liverpool's Christmas Appeal.

Feeding Liverpool's donation page: [Help Feed Liverpool this Christmas - JustGiving](#)

### Christmas Masses at the Cathedral

Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve 15.00

First Vespers of Christmas 18.00

Vigil Mass 23.30 Midnight Mass

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP,

Archbishop of Liverpool broadcast live

on Radio 4 Monday 25 December Christmas Day Masses at 9.00, 10.00 & 11.00

### CAFOD FUN RUN

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am

for an 11am start,

The Mystery,

Wavertree Athletics Centre,

## 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>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	John Cummins, Brian Monaghan
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Mass: John Ryan
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Tony Jones L.D.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Brian Threlfall (B'day Rem)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Parishioners
		<b>6.00pm</b>	Michael Salter
		<b>12 midnight</b>	Peace & Reconciliation in areas of conflict
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Tommy Gannon & Fr Nick Wilde

### Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

To make a donation, please visit the Middle East Crisis Appeal page on the Christian Aid website.

### Christmas Altar Flowers

if you wish to donate money towards the cost of Christmas flowers, please put your donation in the envelopes you will find at the back of church and put the name of the person/family you wish to be remembered.

## Your prayers are asked for those who have

### Died recently

Teresa Newhall, Kenny Wilson,  
Anne Marie Sheilds, Stephen Leather,  
Anne Burke, Maurice O'Gorman,  
John Breen, Peter Carr

### Anniversaries and Birthdays

Brian Monaghan,  
Bernard Hough,  
Michael Morley  
Margaret Sherry

**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 Vera O'Connell	Toni Dal Joan Foster Paul & Kate Joan Turner Julie Pearce John Murphy Angela Gregory G., + MP., + TC.,	Robbie Ross Peter Fraser Ann Shreeve Peter & Jane Kelly Marie O'Shaunessy Christine & David <u>Fitzsimmons</u>	Margaret & <u>Joseph Maloney</u> Vassilis <u>Alamaniotis</u> Joan, Andreas <u>Samaras</u>
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