

# 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.

**Ordinary Week 4**

**28th January 2024.**

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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

In our first reading today from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people that after he has gone the Lord will give them a great prophet who will teach them his ways. The people had grown tired of listening to God and wanted to listen to one of their own so the Lord agrees to appoint one of their own as his prophet. In the gospel we read how Jesus taught the people and that he commanded the unclean spirits with authority which they obeyed. In this we can see Jesus as the great prophet whom Moses spoke about. The Lord is our great teacher and the scriptures contain his teaching if only we had the courage to become familiar with the scriptures and to live out the teachings in our lives.

St Paul tells us that it is easier for the unmarried to devote themselves to the Lord because they do not have to worry about pleasing their spouse or looking after the family. In this, Paul is not being negative about marriage but he is reminding us that no matter what our status in life we must devote some time every day to the Lord.

## **Those entered into the Perpetual Mass Book in December**



Mary Boyd

Marie Vale

John Pierce

Cathy Byrne

Joan Woods

Anne towers

Chris Coulter

Dennis Ryder

Anthony Kerr

Elaine Brown

Norma Roach

Fr Terry Murray

Tony Grierson

James Costello

Quinton Smith

Michael Davies

Ruth McCarthy

Frank McGurrin

Edward Bradley

Kevin Monaghan

Ronnie Whittaker

John Schumacher

Anastasia Dowling



## **LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024**

Joe Walsh Tours are offering a variety of hotels with flights from Liverpool airport.

For more details see the poster at the back of church or contact Joe Walsh Tours

Freephone 0800 1890 468



## **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.

### ***Reflection***

John Bosco educated the whole person—body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith in that love should pervade everything we do—work, study, play. For John Bosco, being a Christian was a full-time effort, not a once-a-week, Mass-on-Sunday experience. It is searching and finding God and Jesus in everything we do, letting their love lead us. Yet, because John realized the importance of job-training and the self-worth and pride that come with talent and ability, he trained his students in the trade crafts, too.

***Saint John Bosco is a Patron Saint of: Boys, Editors, Educators/Teachers, Youth.***

## **Irenaeus - An insight into Trafficking**

Wednesday 7th February The Irenaeus Centre, Great Georges Road, L22 1RD, will be hosting an afternoon of reflection. This will begin with a light lunch, followed by a talk from Petra Smrckova of the Medaille Trust, where she will share her some of her experiences working with Trafficked people. See the poster on the noticeboard and for more information, please email [Jenny@Irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:Jenny@Irenaeus.co.uk).

## 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.

*Jesus was offered, to the Lord God most high.  
Simeon gave praise, and with a gentle sigh.  
Said 'Thank you God, for my two eyes that see.  
The salvation of the world who was sent just from Thee.  
I can go in peace, now the Saviour is here.  
The light and Your Glory to me now is clear.*



*We offer our hearts Lord, fill them with you Love.  
We offer our minds Lord look down from above.  
Fill them with thoughts of Your Loving embrace.  
We offer our souls Lord, fill them with Your grace.  
We thank You Lord, and give praise to Your name.  
We pray the world over, will all do the same.*

## 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>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Ann Doran & Ellen Cook
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass: Christine Sherry then Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 3.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Mass: Salesian Sisters
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>01<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass: Kathy Power & Baby Oliver
<b>Friday</b>	<b>02<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>2.15pm</b>	Requiem: Teresa Walker
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>03<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Michael Doolay (B'day Rem) & Winnie Salim
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>04<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Perpetual Mass book

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

### Died recently

Ann O'Brien

### Anniversaries and Birthdays

Joseph Keating & Michael Thoma

**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	Toni Dal	Mary Wilson	Margaret &
Eileen Guy	Joan Foster	Robbie Ross	<u>Joseph Maloney</u>
Moya Russell	Paul & Kate	Peter Fraser	Vassilis
Bernie Boyde	Joan Turner	Ann Shreeve	<u>Alamaniotis</u>
Angela Adlen	Julie Pearce	Kathleen Halliwell	Joan, Andreas
David Holgate	John Murphy	Peter & Jane Kelly	<u>Samaras</u>
Margaret Lace	Angela Gregory	Marie O'Shaunessy	Christine & David
Vera O'Connell	G., + MP., + TC.,		<u>Fitzsimmons</u>

## Our Lady and Swithins PTA

Invite you to come and join them in school on Fridays at 2pm for a coffee and a chat. Be in the know, meet new friends, and help them with all their upcoming events while raising vital school funds. They'd love to see as many of you as possible. So, speak with your friends and bring them along. They'd love to see you!

### **Cathedral Friends Event -**

#### **'Another Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die' -**

Saturday 24 Feb 11.00am The Gibberd Room, Metropolitan Cathedral  
The Cathedral Friends are delighted to announce that there will be a talk on 'Another Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die' by Elena Curti. In this talk, Elena Curti will take you on a journey of discovery exploring churches featured in her new book. She shares stories of the architects, benefactors, priests and poor Catholics who raised these extraordinary places of worship. Tickets are £12 which include refreshments and a chance to meet the author. Please purchase tickets using the link below. Any queries please contact Claire Hanlon at [c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk)

#### **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass - Saturday 10th February**

Diocesan celebration for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick is at 12 Noon, Saturday 10th February, Christ the King, Queens Drive, Bishop Tom Neylon presiding.

### **School of Prayer Events**

#### **9th , 16th , 23rd January For three Tuesdays in January,**

Irenaeus are running a "School of Prayer" event. This exploration of prayer will reflect on different traditions of prayer and the history behind them. Each session will focus on a way of praying, and end with a chance to pray in that way. You will also be invited to use that form of prayer in your own personal prayer at home for that week. This is an ideal opportunity to deepen your prayer life and to share your experience with others. These sessions will take place at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, L22 1RD. For more information, contact [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 0151 949 1199.

### **First Holy Communion Preparation Classes**

For those children who were unable to attend the first session, there will be a catch-up session on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6pm.  
The second session will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10am and 11.30am

### **CONFIRMATION**

Any young person in year 8 can register for confirmation  
at: [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk)  
the deadline is 18<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Please see the poster at the back of church.**

### **Vatican II Constitutions Lecture & Seminar**

#### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

The Vatican II Constitutions lecture & seminars is a series of events with Liverpool Hope University in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Liverpool. These events are in advance of the Year of Prayer 2024, in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025. They are free and available to everyone, but it is essential to book tickets in advance. The seminars will run from 3pm - 4:30pm. After an hour's break for refreshments, the lectures will start at 5.30pm – 7pm. If you can't attend in person, you can view the lecture online. The best way to do this is to log in to Liverpool Hope's online store ahead of time and register: <http://bit.ly/3Ql4e5R>

### **Wine is a gift from God,**

#### **Pope Francis tells Italian producers**



Pope Francis has said that wine "is a gift from God" and "a true source of joy" for its consumers – words that have been immediately embraced by Italian wine producers who have fought against European health warnings. Pope Francis made the comments during a private audience at the Vatican with winemakers from across Italy.

Welcoming his audience, he joked: "This seems like a drunk pope", before going on to say: "Wine, land, agricultural skills and entrepreneurialism are gifts from God – the creator has entrusted them to us because, with our sensitivity and honesty, we make them a true source of joy."

However, the pontiff also called on the winemakers to reflect on the "moral and ethical responsibilities" their work entails, such as treating their workers and the environment with respect while encouraging healthy drinking habits.

The event was organised by Domenico Pompili, the bishop of Verona, before the Vinitaly wine trade fair that takes place in the northern Italian city each April. The key to drinking wine is moderation, Pompili said. "Saint Paul said it – a glass is good to cheer you up, but in moderation."

Italy has pushed back against proposals to make health warnings on alcoholic drinks mandatory across the EU after Ireland was given approval by the European Commission to adopt the measure. The move in Ireland, which was met with protest by Italy, Spain and six other EU states, will lead to health warning labels being placed on bottles of wine, beer and spirits from 2026.



### **RED MISSION BOXES**

Please bring your mission box to church and give it to Anne Harvey or Doreen Burke and the money will be counted and your mission box left to following week at the back of church.



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