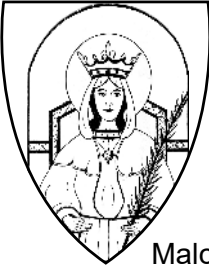


# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.

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

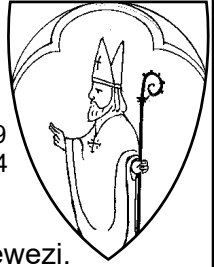
Blessed Sacrament 474 2682. St Teresa's 226 1354

**Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly.**

### **Deacons:**

Malcolm Fletcher, Chris Housbey and Justin Malewezi.

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



**Ordinary Week 3**

**21st January 2024.**

## **The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 24; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20*

Our readings today call on us to repent and to change our ways. They remind us that the pleasures of this earthly life are constantly changing and that only the Word of God can bring us everlasting happiness. In the first reading we see the Prophet Jonah being sent to Nineveh to preach the Word of God there. The people realise their folly and change their ways returning to the Lord once more. In the gospel from St Mark we see Jesus begin his public ministry with the words "The kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." He then goes on to call his first disciples. By virtue of our baptism we are each called to serve the Lord as did the people of Nineveh and the first disciples. We are challenged to say the words of today's Psalm with conviction – "Lord, make me know your ways . . . make me walk in your truth." St Paul tells us in the second reading that the world as we know it is passing away. While the world is now a great age and does not appear to be coming to an end any time soon, the life of each of us on this planet is extremely short and rather insignificant. Therefore we should dedicate ourselves to the Lord so that we will inherit eternal life.

## **Advent Appeal to help newborn babies.**

The response to the Advent appeal for Baby Basics was amazing. Prior to Christmas they had almost empty shelves, but thanks to groups like ours 'God has provided' and they have already been able to respond to numerous demands.

They were absolutely delighted with the amount and variety donated by our parishioners which totalled almost 300 separate items. These ranged from pairs of tiny socks to a brand new Moses basket and included cute outfits as well as supplies of essentials such as bodysuits, wipes and nappies. The skilled knitters in the parish made beautiful blankets, cardigans and hats. There was even a £10 note.

It was a delight to unpack everything, a reminder of the joy of giving.

It is truly heartwarming to belong to such a generous parish.

**Thank you all.**

## **Saint Francis de Sales 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness on the part of the gentle Francis did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them, especially in the district of Chablais. By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, he had remarkable success. At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practiced his own axiom, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar." Besides his two well-known books, the Introduction to the Devout Life and A Treatise on the Love of God, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in The Introduction to the Devout Life: "It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman.... It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world."

### **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.

### **Porchfield Community Centre**

Has a new program of classes starting this month, they include, Jewelry making and Zumba. See the booklet at the back of church or ring Gerry on 0151 547 4455

## **CATECHIST TRAINING**

Beginning on Wednesday 24 January until June the Archdiocese will be offering 3 modules over 13 weeks for the training of catechists. Whether you are considering being a catechist, or are an existing catechist looking to refresh your knowledge, this course could be for you. The first four sessions will explore key principles of catechesis to build confidence. This course is free, and is initially being offered from 7 to 8.30pm on Wednesdays at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre. To register your interest for this course, please email [training@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:training@rcaol.org.uk)

**With the money from the CAFOD Raffle, we have bought 4 items totalling £219. Please see the CAFOD display for details.**

## **The Conversion of Saint Paul 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfilment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labour and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a). Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new. So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

## **First Holy Communion Preparation Classes**

For those children who were unable to attend the first session, the First Holy Communion catechists are running a catch up session on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6pm. The next Session will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10am and 11.30am

## **Readers at Mass.**

Fr Chris Thomas, the famous leader of the Irenaeus Spirituality Project, is teaching us about Mark's Gospel, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am to 1.00pm in the Social Centre, St Teresas' Church. Please sign up now to come and join us for one or both sessions by contacting Annie on 0151 226 1354 or [st.teresasng@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:st.teresasng@rcaol.org.uk). No charge, donations welcome.

**All over the world your spirit is moving.**

**All over the world as the profits said it would be.**

## 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>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	KFridayathleen Halleran & Brian Threlfall (1st Anniv)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Parishioners
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Antonia Beary
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Ashley & Gary S.I.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Funeral: Jamie Veal.
<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

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

### **Died recently**

John Schumacher, Christine Sherry,  
Brenda Cowie, Kerry Ann Woods,  
Elizabeth Holten, Norma Roach,  
Chris Coulter, Barry Collins.

### **Anniversaries and Birthdays**

Alice Magee, Henry Bird (Sr.)

**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.,	Mary Wilson Robbie Ross Peter Fraser Ann Shreeve Kathleen Halliwell Peter & Jane Kelly Marie O'Shaunessy	Margaret & <u>Joseph Maloney</u> Vassilis <u>Alamaniotis</u> Joan, Andreas <u>Samaras</u> Christine & David <u>Fitzsimmons</u>
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### **Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)**

Discerning God's Call in your life 16-18 February 2024, Liverpool The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

## 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 0808 1890 468

## POPE FRANCIS



## GAZA CEASE-FIRE

Speaking at the end of his weekly General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis made a new appeal for an end to the war in Gaza.  
“I continue to follow the conflict in Israel and Palestine with much worry and pain,” he said. “I renew my call for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire: there is so much suffering there.  
I encourage all parties involved to resume negotiations,” the Pope added, “and call on everyone to make an urgent commitment to get humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.”

**“Please”, he concluded, “no to weapons, yes to peace.”**

## God Calling Devotionals 24<sup>th</sup> January Your Great Reward

You pray for Faith, and you are told to do so. But I make provision in the House of My Abiding for those who turn towards Me and yet have weak knees and hearts that faint. Be not afraid. I am your God. Your Great Reward.

Yours to look up and say, “All is well.”

I am your Guide. Do not want to see the road ahead. Go just one step at a time. I rarely grant the long vista to My disciples, especially in personal affairs, for one step at a time is the best way to cultivate Faith.

You are in uncharted waters. But the Lord of all Seas is with you, the Controller of all Storms is with you. Sing with Joy. You follow the Lord of Limitations, as well as the God in whose service is perfect freedom.

He, the God of the Universe, confined Himself within the narrow limits of a Baby-form and, in growing Boyhood, and young Manhood, submitted to your human limitations, and you have to learn that your vision and power, boundless as far as spiritual things are concerned, must in temporal affairs submit to limitations, too. But I am with you. It was when the disciples gave up effort after a night of fruitless fishing, that I came, and the nets broke with the overabundance of supply.

*He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth  
much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. – John 15:5*

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

### Fragility of Freedom

In every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they are targeting.

On HMD 2024, we can all reflect on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse.

### True Love

*Love can always conquer whatever discord brings  
and love can also cover a multitude of things.  
Don't you underestimate what love can ever do,  
for love is God eternal and His love can renew.*

*What is cold and lifeless, now lost all hope and died,  
for love can breathe new meaning and give it back new life.  
Please don't give up on love when it seems that all is lost,  
for there is always hope if we're prepared to pay the cost.*

*For love is always worth it no matter how much the price,  
for love will be much stronger when we trust in Jesus Christ.  
So let God have full reign, let Him live within your heart  
then you will know true love, for this He will impart.*

## Living Faith 21<sup>st</sup> January We are all Passing Through

It would be so nice not to worry about anything and live free of material attachments, free of the need to cast our nets into a vast world, hoping to catch something worthwhile. Unfortunately, most things caught by our nets are transitory in nature. Maybe it might be better to see things of this world as just that—transitory. Then maybe we could live freely enough to just put our nets of desire aside and just follow Jesus. Understandably this isn't easy; we know the price of discipleship. Moreover, we are people who worry; we are people who always need to hold onto something. However, we live as though nothing material was permanent, we might find it maybe easier to hold everyone around us with gratitude. We also are passing through, and Jesus wants us to walk with him untethered and unencumbered by temporary things.

***Lord, please, may I walk with you.***