

# 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 5**

**4th February 2024.**

## **The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39*

The readings today speak of the healing and freedom brought to us by Christ and his gospel. In the first reading Job likens man's life to being little more than a slave who awaits his wages and has nothing else to look forward to. In the gospel we read about Jesus curing people and preaching the Good News to them. The crowds follow him wherever he goes because his words bring healing and freedom to them. We do not have Christ with us in the same way as the people in the gospel had but we do have him present in our tabernacles and present in the words of sacred scripture. We are challenged today to listen to the words of Christ and to put our trust in them knowing that they will bring us healing and comfort and free us from all that would enslave us in this life.

In the second reading St Paul tells us that he preaches the gospel in order to set others free even though he doesn't get paid for it and has, in a certain sense, become the slave of all.

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

19th July – 26th July. 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

## **AN INSIGHT INTO TRAFFICKING**

Irenaeus Centre, Wednesday 7 February 12:45pm An afternoon of reflection followed by a light lunch, Petra Smrckova of the Medaille Trust will be sharing her experiences of working with trafficked people at the Irenaeus Centre (32 Great Georges Road L22 1RD). For further details please email [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or call 0151 949 1199.

**First Holy Communion Preparation Classes –The second session will be on Saturday 3rd February at 10am and 11.30am in the Community Room**

## Saint Agatha 5th February



As in the case of Agnes, another virgin-martyr of the early Church, almost nothing is historically certain about this saint except that she was martyred in Sicily during the persecution of Emperor Decius in 251. Legend has it that Agatha, like Agnes, was arrested as a Christian, tortured, and sent to a house of prostitution to be mistreated. She was preserved from being violated, and was later put to death.

She is claimed as the patroness of both Palermo and Catania. The year after her death, the stilling of an eruption of Mt. Etna was attributed to her intercession. As a result, apparently, people continued to ask her prayers for protection against fire.

### *Reflection*

The scientific modern mind winces at the thought of a volcano's might being contained by God because of the prayers of a Sicilian girl. Still less welcome, probably, is the notion of that saint being the patroness of such varied professions as those of foundry workers, nurses, miners and Alpine guides. Yet, in our historical precision, have we lost an essential human quality of wonder and poetry, and even our belief that we come to God by helping each other, both in action and prayer? Saint Agatha is the Patron Saint of: Healing from Diseases of the Breast, Nurses.

### RED MISSION BOXES

Please bring your mission box to church, 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.

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Registration for Confirmation preparation for children in year 8 and above is open now, until 18th March at [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk)

## Cathedral Friends Event

'Another Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die' - Saturday 24 Feb 11.00am The Gibberd Room, Metropolitan Cathedral. 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

## HOMES, HOUSING AND LAND

Archdiocese Social Action Network Event Wednesday 7 February 7-8:30pm online in partnership with SVP, Liverpool Archdiocese is running its next workshop. Hear from Housing People Building Communities on their refit of 2 disused Archdiocesan churches and discuss the current housing shortage affecting refugees. Book: <https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/g3wy7lp>



## **Saint Josephine Bakhita 8<sup>th</sup> February**

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.



Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY: 14 February 2024**

Walk of Witness for Peace, Repentance and Reconciliation. Assemble from 1.15pm on steps of St Luke's 'bombed out church' at the top of Bold St, Liverpool L1 2TR. The walk starts at 1.30pm, with Stations of the Cross. Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi. Contact: Jan Harper [janharper20211@outlook.com](mailto:janharper20211@outlook.com)

## **A LOOK AT MARK'S GOSPEL**

Irenaeus Centre, Thursday 8 – 29 February 10:30am-12:00pm Over several weeks in February the Irenaeus Centre will be taking a look at Mark's Gospel: Zoom links and further information are available by emailing [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or calling 0151 949 1199.

## **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.

## 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>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
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>06<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass: Josie Dunne
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>07<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Mass: Alice Magee Anniv & Tommy Fagan
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>08<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass: Tony Farrell
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Parishioners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	William George Chesters (100th B'day Rem)

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

### **Died recently**

Raymond Clucksey, Teresa Walker,  
Carla, Susan Williams, Thomas Rowan,  
Brian Fitzpatrick.

### **Anniversaries and Birthdays**

Joan Gill, Henry Bird & Janet Dunne.

**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 Cathy Platt 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., Maureen O'Connor	Colette Jones Mary Wilson Robbie Ross Peter Fraser Ann Shreeve Kathleen Halliwell Peter & Jane Kelly Marie O'Shaunessy Francine & Peter Simpson	Margaret & <u>Joseph Maloney</u> Vassilis <u>Alamaniotis</u> Joan, Andreas <u>Samaras</u> Christine & David <u>Fitzsimmons</u>
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## Christian Films

The Chosen is a major new drama series which has now reached the mid-point of Jesus' ministry. It will be showing at The Showcase, Odeon, Liverpool one and Switch Island on 15th and 29th February. For details and to book go to: [thechosentv.co.uk](http://thechosentv.co.uk)  
Ordinary Angels (PG) is opening in cinemas nationwide on Friday 23rd February. For details and the trailer google: [ordinaryangels.movie](http://ordinaryangels.movie)