

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISHES OF

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs
& St Swithin, Croxteth**

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**St Teresa of the Child Jesus
Norris Green**

Tel: 0151 226 1354

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*In the Pastoral Area of St Raphael and St Paul
with Blessed Sacrament 474 2682*

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Fallon Assistant Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly

Deacons: Chris Housbey, Malcolm Fletcher, Donagh McKillop

Sunday 13th December 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

Live Streaming System

All services from both churches are now live streamed via Church Services TV. You can view services via the links on our websites, Facebook and Twitter sites or for Our Lady's at www.churchservices.tv/croxteth and for St Teresa's at www.churchservices.tv/teresanorrisgreen.

Your prayers are asked for those who have died recently, especially

Sr. Winifred Acred FMA, Frank White, Lorraine Wilson, Mrs Murphy,

Joseph Williams, Malcolm Platt, Ruth Pearce

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Rose McMahon, Margaret Jacobson

Please pray too for all those who are lonely or housebound and for those who are sick, at home or in hospital, especially

Janet Clark, Margaret Bradley, Peter Fraser, John Murphy, T. C. Sheila Willcox, Andreas Samaras, John Walker, David & Julie Pearce, J. G., Mary

Mousley, Paul & Kate, Angela Adlen, Giles Rowe, Angela Gregory, Anna

Gawlik, Jon, Mick Lawrence, Joan Turner, Brian McEvoy, Elizabeth

O'Grady, David Holgate, Eleanor March, Raymond Doran, Joan,

Daria McCusker, Robert Gibson

THE MASSES IN BOLD TYPE ARE OPEN FOR PEOPLE TO ATTEND

SATURDAY 12th December

6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's

SUNDAY 13th December

10.00am Mass: St Teresa's

11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

MONDAY 14th December

9.00 am Mass Queen of Martyrs

TUESDAY 15th December

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

WEDNESDAY 16th December

9.00am Mass: St Teresa's

7.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

THURSDAY 17th December

9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

FRIDAY 18th December

No Mass

SATURDAY 19th December

6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's

SUNDAY 20th December

10.00am Mass: St Teresa's

11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

*All Masses are live streamed via
the parish websites.*

Tickets for Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

There are still a few tickets available for the 6.00pm Masses on Christmas Eve in both churches and there are plenty available for the other four Masses. Sign-up sheets for individual or family tickets will be available for those attending Mass this weekend (12th-13th). After 13th December any remaining tickets will be available via the parish offices. A family ticket will admit those living in one household up to the number that can fit in one bench. The tickets will be available for collection at the Masses on the weekend of 19th-20th December or by arrangement from the parish offices. You will need to bring your ticket with you to the Mass and hand it to a steward who will show you to your allocated place. The times of the Masses will be:

Christmas Eve: St Teresa's 6.00pm and 8.00pm; Queen of Martyrs 6.00pm and 12 midnight.

Christmas Day: St Teresa's 10.00am; Queen of Martyrs 11.30am

Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for December 2020



Pope Francis tells us that the heart of the Church's mission is prayer. Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father. Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us; we have a conversation with Jesus; we listen to Jesus and we reply. Our heart changes when we pray. This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention. **"....We pray**

that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer. “

WELCOME We are delighted to welcome the following children who were baptised into our faith community last weekend, *Kurtis Oakes-Finnetty & Michael Arnaud Reil*



Virtual Christmas Presents - World Gifts



The gifts you buy on behalf of a friend or relative will be given to someone in the developing world to change their lives for the better.

At the back of OLQM church you will find leaflets and a collection box. If, as a parish, we collect £33 it's enough to buy safe drinking water for a family.

Nugent Crisis Fund Update

As many of you will be aware, Nugent introduced a Crisis Fund a few years ago that Head Teachers, Priests or a representative of the parish, can apply to on behalf of families or individuals through the completion of an application form, detailing the difficulties the people are experiencing and why they require this one-off financial support. Due to a recent donation from a very generous supporter the fund continues to stay open, and we are able to make one off small grants to individuals and families within the Archdiocese at this time. More information can be found on [here](#) or please contact the Caritas Manager, Marie Reynolds: marier@wearenugent.org.

Gaudete Sunday



The Third Sunday of Advent is 'Gaudete Sunday'. It's an invitation for us to rejoice! These are the days leading up to the feast of our Saviour's birth, today we are reminded of the joy that is to come.

ACROSS Carol Concert – Thursday 10th December

Please join the ACROSS Community at 7pm for their first online Carol Concert.

Login details – Christmas Carol Concert

Meeting ID: 899 3357 3298 Password: 550999.

New resources now available include:

- [Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent](#) (also available as an [audio download](#)).
- [Readings for next few Sundays.](#)
- [Week 14 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.](#)
- [Key characters of Advent: Mary.](#)

A time of Joy & Light

Today's readings may strike a chord with many people across our world today. Isaiah speaks of 'the poor, the broken-hearted, captivity and imprisonment'. With severe economic downturns and the consequences for job security, the grief of losing loved ones, multiple lockdowns and isolation; many will have been severely impacted during this *Annus Horribillis* of 2019. But, Isaiah also speaks of 'good news, binding up, liberty and freedom'. Through the presence of God; healing, restoration and better times lie ahead. Therein lies our hope and our joy.

Today, being the third Sunday of Advent (yes, it is here already - how is the Advent preparation going?) is also termed Gaudete Sunday, encouraging us to be joyful in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. As we start to hear, at last, some encouraging news regarding the Pandemic - a bit of light at the end of a long and dark tunnel, so through this season of expectancy and arrival, we have the joy of looking forward to the Messiah.

This prospect of the coming of Jesus, can, even in these difficult times, be a great source of joy. Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Evangelii Gaudium* (the Joy of the Gospel), similarly speaks of those antidotes to human suffering that Isaiah touches upon: 'those who accept [God's] offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.'

Today, as we light the *Rose* candle symbolising that joy, there is a certain calming effect as we gaze upon the Advent wreath with its ever-increasing chinks of light. That light is what drew many people towards John the Baptist in his coming as a 'witness to speak for the light'. The witness that John gave was his sharp focus on his own hoped-for personal encounter with Jesus - this coming after he had already 'leapt for joy' in the womb of Elizabeth.

I was once told by a policeman that I fitted the description of somebody who had just committed a crime! (I hadn't) However, I haven't yet been mistaken for 'the light' as John was, but what a compliment that must have been to the deep witness of expectant joy that made up the whole of his life. Pope Francis also added, '[God] is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew.' Words of hope for what is about to happen.

Fr Anthony