

# 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**

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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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Fourth 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](http://www.churchservices.tv/croxteth) and for St Teresa's at [www.churchservices.tv/teresanorrisgreen](http://www.churchservices.tv/teresanorrisgreen).

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

Sr. Winifred Acred FMA, John Hagan Peter Cain, Malcolm Platt, Doris Gillies, Abraham Scaria, Emily Murphy, Raymond McManus, Maureen Smith, Thomas Egan, Christina Hardman

**and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time**

Anthony Larkin (B'day Rem), James Joseph Hutton, Leo Riley, Ann Burns,

**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 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's**

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am Mass: St Teresa's**

**11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**11.30am Requiem: St Teresa's**

**TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**11.00am Funeral: St Teresa's**

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

**9.00am Mass: St Teresa's**

**7.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**11.30am Requiem for Sr. Winifred**

**6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's**

**8.00pm Mass: St Teresa's**

**Midnight Mass: Queen of Martyrs**

**FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am St Teresa's**

**11.30am Queen of Martyrs**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am St Teresa's**

**11.30am Queen of Martyrs**

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

Tickets are available for collection at Masses this weekend 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 are:

*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

**WELCOME** We are delighted to welcome the following children who were baptised into our faith community last weekend, *Flynn John Roberts, Bella Elizabeth Blackhall, Chinemerem Ezeh & Chinecherem Ezeh*



## New resources now available include:

- [Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent](#) (also available as an audio download).
- [Week 15 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.](#)

## Other resources for Christmas:

- Bishop Peter Brignall has created - [At the Manger: Family Crib Services for the Eight Day of Christmas.](#)
- Teresa Brown from Northampton Diocese has created a [YouTube video on the Annunciation: From Gabriel to Mary](#) with her own music and various artists' portrayal of the event.
- The images for the O Antiphons from 17 – 23 December which could be displayed on windows or as decorations on a tree can be downloaded from the [Liverpool South Pastoral Area Website.](#)

### For Expectant Mothers



Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Advent is the time of year we pray for expectant mothers. We pray that mums-to-be have all the support and help they need. We pray particularly for expectant mothers who are filled with anxieties and uncertainty. We also pray for couples who are experiencing the pain of not being able to conceive, and for those who have lost a child.

### BBC Radio Four Christmas Programmes 2020

Across the week Radio 4 has traditional programming for the season, including:

- **A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 3.00pm**  
The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge.
- **Radio Four's Midnight Mass, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm**  
The First Mass of Christmas from Manchester Cathedral.

### Homeless at Christmas - Shelter Appeal 2020

Many people struggling with bad housing and homelessness have already endured the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic without a safe place to live. And now, Christmas will be spent in cramped beds and breakfasts, sleeping in cars, or in temporary accommodation hundreds of miles away from family. This winter, it's never been more dangerous to be homeless.

There are lots of ways you can get involved in Shelter's Christmas appeal. Visit the site at [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk). Other charities that are running Christmas appeals for the homeless are... [www.crisis.org.uk](http://www.crisis.org.uk) [www.salvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk)

## Are We Ready?

The title of my reflection today evokes memories for me of my childhood watching Gladiators on TV, the referee would shout to the contestants and gladiators “are you ready?” before they started each event and they would signal that they were.

So! Are you Ready? And if so, what are you actually ready for?

To get ready is to start your preparations for something that is about to happen in your life, and this in turn makes me think of joining the scouts when I was younger, their motto is “Be Prepared”. This could be a fitting motto for the Catholic Church, we seem to spend lots of our time preparing for things that are about to happen.

We spend the four weeks of Advent preparing for Christmas, we spend the six and a half weeks of Lent preparing for Easter. That is one fifth of our year already. In 2018 we spent months preparing for our parish golden jubilee. We are preparing for something special, getting ready for an event that will be the culmination of our preparations.

Sometimes we can lose sight of the event because we are overwhelmed by the preparations, but this should not be the case, yes, the preparations are important, how we get there is just as important as reaching the destination, but we need to enjoy and embrace the destination too.

Our readings today follow on this same theme. In our first reading Samuel tells us of how the Lord instructs Nathan to prepare David for his Kingship and the Kingship of his children. It is Solomon who will build a house for the Ark that is still visible today in part. In our second reading Paul is preparing the Christians in Rome to go out and proclaim the message of Christ. In our Gospel Luke tells the story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary to prepare her for the fact that she is going to carry the son of God in her womb.

People still visit the remains of Solomon’s Temple, our mission is still to proclaim the message of Christ, we celebrate the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus every day.

So! Are you ready? Are you ready to welcome the Christ Child into your lives this Christmas?

*Deacon Chris*