

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 21st February 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Live Streaming System

All services from both churches are 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

George Jesudoss Selvaraj, Barbara Furlong, Frank Kevan, Margaret Clarke, Muriel Humphreys, Colette Meskell, Anna McCabe, Nan Paxton, Maureen Talbot, Thomas Clegg, Margaret Standley, Margaret Malloy, Sheila Evans, Eileen Cavanagh, Davy Rimmer, Pat Angwin, Denise Hughes, John Blackburn, Mary Martin, Peter Cavanagh, Hilma Gornall, Teresa Walsh, Lynn Moreton, Teresa Corley,

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Kathleen Johnston, Donna Casebury, Molly Campbell, Dolly Russell, Jimmy Daley,

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, Mick Lawrence, Joan Turner, Brian McEvoy, Elizabeth O'Grady, David Holgate, Joan, Daria McCusker, Robert Gibson, Deb Joyce, Margaret Lace, Irene Kennedy, Brian Threlfall, Mike and Eileen Guy, baby Toby McKuster

SATURDAY 20th February
6.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs
6.00pm Mass: St Teresa's

SUNDAY 21st February
10.00am Mass: St Teresa's
11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

MONDAY 22nd February
9.00am Mass: St Teresa's
10.30am Funeral: Queen of Martyrs

TUESDAY 23rd February
9.00am Mass: St Teresa's
10.15am Funeral: St Teresa's
12.00 Requiem: Queen of Martyrs

WEDNESDAY 24th February
9.00am Mass: St Teresa's
10.30am Funeral: St Teresa's
7.00pm Mass: Queen of Martyrs

THURSDAY 25th February
9.00am Mass: St Teresa's
1.45pm Requiem: Queen of Martyrs

FRIDAY 26th February
9.00am Mass: Queen of Martyrs
1.00pm Funeral: Queen of Martyrs

SATURDAY 27th February
6.00pm St Teresa's
6.00pm Queen of Martyrs

SUNDAY 28th February
10.00am Mass: St Teresa's
11.30am Mass: Queen of Martyrs

All Masses are live streamed via the parish websites.

New resources for prayer and reflection include:

- Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent (available as an audio download).
- Sunday readings.
- Week 24 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ

The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing."

In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. **Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm.** To register please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global. Hosted by GCCM *Laudato Si'* Animators in the UK.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience... Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)

22nd February: Feast- The Chair of Saint Peter



No..... this isn't a feast day when we celebrate a piece of furniture! Like the 'committee chair', this chair refers to the occupant. Its first occupant, St Peter, stumbled a bit. That he wasn't perfect endears us to him. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit and some have failed scandalously. Others stand out as shining examples. Whatever our opinion of any individual pope, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 21 February 2021

We live in tough times. The past few months have highlighted the inequalities that sweep too many people into poverty. But we have also been reminded of the values that matter most: mutuality, compassion and community. As we journey forward together, we have the chance to do things differently. If we are to build a society in which everyone can live a full life, free from poverty, we must ensure the voices of people who are struggling to make ends meet are heard. Join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action this Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Share a vision for a society founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power. Get free resources or donate online at www.church-poverty.org.uk .

What Are You Giving Up For Lent?

Starting from Ash Wednesday is the forty day Lenten period before Easter (not counting Sundays). Lent is a season of soul searching, reflection and of taking stock a season of Lenten resolutions. From this week on you will be bombarded with that familiar question "So what are you giving up for Lent?" Instead of rattling off a list of sweets, favourite tipples, fatty foods and other vices ... think! Think hard about the reason for Lent, and the reason for your Lenten resolution. If we go through Lent marvelling at our diminishing waistlines and improved complexions we have seriously missed the point. The purpose of fasting is to bring us closer to God, not to drop a couple of dress or trouser sizes. Nor should we think of Lent as purely a time of fasting, Lent is also a time of prayer and almsgiving. Lent isn't just about giving things up; it's about improving our relationship with others and with God.

Think of a meaningful Lenten resolution and consider carrying it on throughout the year.

Reflection for the First Sunday of Lent

Of all the Seasons of the church's year, Lent is the oldest and the most striking. The purple colour, the Ashes, fish on Friday, Stations of the Cross and *giving up something for lent* all evoke powerful and common memories. In today's Gospel reading Jesus goes into the desert and, during Lent we do as well.

During these 40 days, we try to go back to basics, to breathe new life into our Christian identity; it is like a fresh start. A fresh start is what the story of Noah is all about. It is not difficult for us to understand the fear that the ancients had of floods, typhoons, or a deluge. It could exterminate entire villages, towns, and Civilizations. Whether it was sudden or gradual, rising water threatened to destroy everything in sight. In the Asian tsunamis that we witnessed a while ago we saw the power of water to destroy. Noah, however, was safe because he was in the ark that rode above the waters. After the rains stopped, he saw the Rainbow sign. It was a sign of a new beginning and a sign to the entire human race of God's promise to bring Salvation to those Who repent and are Faithful to Him.

It is still spectacular to see a rainbow, It reminded the people of Israel that whatever the weather or storms they experienced, God is always faithful. The Ark and the Rainbow are for us, two signs of God's salvation. We are still afraid of floodwaters but there are other raging and rising Waters around that can destroy lives and families just as tragically. We have all been affected by the Corona virus for more than a year, and having to distance ourselves from our loved ones, family and friends has taken its toll on us all, and we are more afraid now than we have ever been.

But like Noah we have been given an ark, the Church, it floats over the waters as a place of safety and calm. We find the ark in the community of faith into which we were baptised. Our rainbow sign is the Eucharist. It is God's abiding sign to remain faithful to us in any and every storm. Lent opens the door for us to enter the ark once again. Here, from within the ark, we can behold the rainbow sign of the Eucharist telling us that we are never alone.

Deacon Malcolm