

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin, Croxteth

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In the Pastoral Area of St Raphael and St Paul

With St Teresa of the Child Jesus 226 1354

Blessed Sacrament 474 2682

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly

Deacons: Chris Housbey & Malcolm Fletcher

Safeguarding Representatives: *Catherine Housbey and Malcolm Fletcher*

Email: olaom@rcaol.org.uk

Sunday, 19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

Ann Grierson, Mary Best, Liam Gilchrist, Clare Richardson,

Joanne Darwen, Bill Lill, Catherine O'Brien, Eddie Divers

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Tony Larkin (B'day Rem), Mary Kelly (1st Anniv),

Sr Winifred Acred (1st Anniv)

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., David

& Julie Pearce, J. G., Joan, Andreas Samaras, Paul & Kate, M.P.,

Angela Adlen, Angela Gregory, Mick Lawrence, Joan Turner,

David Holgate, Margaret Lace, Brian Threlfall, Eileen Guy, Diane Bell,

Toni Daly, Billy Fox, Eddie Unsworth, Bernie Boyd, Vassilis Alamaniotis,

Josie Dunne, Margaret & Joseph Maloney, Kenny Morley, Ellen Cooke

MASSES TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday	18th Dec	6.00pm	Mary Potter LD. Tony Larkin (B'day Rem)
Sunday	19th	11.30am	Bernard Hough (B'day Rem)
Monday	20th	9.00am	Margaret (SI) Margaret Sherry (Anniv)
Tuesday	21st	9.00am	Brian Burke G.W.
Wednesday	22nd	9.30am	Funeral: Ann Grierson
		7.00pm	Sr Winifred Acred (1 st Anniv)
Thursday	23rd	9.00am	Requiem: Mary Best
Friday	24th	6.00pm	Liam Gilchrist (LD)
		12 midnight	Martyrs of Jordan Parish
Saturday	25th	10.00am	Parishioners
Sunday	26th	11.30am	Bernie Boyd (Thanks giving)
Monday	27th	No Mass	
Tuesday	28th	No Mass	
Wednesday	29th	No Mass	
Thursday	30th	No Mass	
Friday	31st	No Mass	
Saturday	1st Jan	6.00pm	Parishioners
Sunday	2nd	11.30pm	Mary Kelly (1 st Anniv)

“PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD” During Advent

Confessing to a priest is a way of putting my life into the hands and hearts of someone else, someone who in that moment acts in the name of Jesus”

(Pope Francis)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

individually in the Community Room

Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm

Sunday 10.45am – 11.15am

Friday, Christmas Eve 5.15pm – 5.45pm

For Expectant Mothers. Traditionally, the fourth Sunday of Advent is a day on which we pray for expectant mothers everywhere. We must also remember to pray for expectant dads, and for 'would-be' parents.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Our collection, to send a parish gift, will continue until the new year. We're aiming to raise £175 to buy a package called '**A safe place to call home**'. See the display at the back of church for more information and to donate.

BBC Radio 4 Christmas Eve 23.30

Live from the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist, Salford - A Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve. Celebrant and Preacher: The Right Reverend John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

What's Happening in Afghanistan, *Save the Children Crisis Appeal*

2021 has been a desperate year for Afghanistan's children. But now, widespread hunger and the onset of freezing winter weather are making things even worse.

You can donate online at www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies/afghanistan-crisis-appeal



Christmas Mass Times

24th December: Vigil of the Nativity: **6pm & 12 midnight**

25th December: Nativity of the Lord: **10am**

N.B. The archdiocese has suggested that if people wish to come to Mass on Sunday 26th December at 11.30 am that will count as going to Mass at Christmas.

If you are anxious about staying socially distanced at Mass, please speak to a steward when you enter church.

If any stewards are available to help at Mass at 6pm Christmas Eve or 10am Christmas Day, please sign the sheet on the notice board. Thanks very much.

Gospel Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Believing in Promises



It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder

the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question."

It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on God's commands. We might not confess to doubts, but if we really don't harbour any doubts, why then do we hedge our bets? Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things?

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.