

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: olqom@rcaol.org.uk

Sunday, 26th December 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

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 Jones, Bill Lill, Sheila White, Catherine O'Brien,

Christine Crowley-Johnson

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Mary Kelly (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	25th Dec	10 am	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 January	6.00pm	Parishioners
Sunday	2nd	11.30am	Bernie Boyd (Thanks giving)
Monday	3rd	9.00am	Richard McKernan S.I.
Tuesday	4th	10.15am	Requiem: Bill Lill
Wednesday	5th	7.00pm	Ann Jones
Thursday	6th	9.00am	Asylum Seekers and Refugees
Friday	7th	No Mass	
Saturday	8th	6.00pm	Christine Crowley-Johnson L.D.
Sunday	9th	11.30pm	Parishioners

Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahan OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

Christmas is a special time, and at the heart of our celebrations is the fact that God became man for us. Two thousand years ago there wasn't a feast of Christmas yet there was still expectation as people longed for the coming of the Messiah to transform their lives. We don't always get what we expect at Christmas and two thousand years ago people didn't expect that the Messiah would be born in poverty, to a refugee family forced to leave their home to take part in a census for an occupying power. Homeless, with nowhere to stay they found refuge in a cold, dark stable with only the farm animals for company. Yet lives were about to be transformed. I am sure celebrations were far from the minds of shepherds on a cold, bleak hillside and yet suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, there was light, and glory shone around them – no wonder they were terrified. The first words of the angel to them were 'Do not be afraid...' as they went full of joy to Bethlehem to greet the new born king. So many of us need those words of the angel

today: 'Do not be afraid...' Weighed down with the cares of life we fear for the future, but Christmas gives us hope as we know that Christ is with us. The Prince of Peace comes to us to bring his peace and healing and to give us hope. Christmas is a time for precious memories too. Memories of Christmases past - maybe recent or long ago. Memories of loved ones, just by thinking of them we are saying, 'we love you...you are still with us in our hearts...' There may be tears too, 'Do not be afraid' of them, they are fine because they are a sign of love. The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, especially to those in need. So many people work in the weeks before Christmas to help those in greatest need. We see people giving up their time to feed the hungry, and to provide a place of refuge for those who are lonely. Those who work in our essential services are there for us too. During the pandemic we have renewed our spirit of care and generosity – we have reached out to others and offered them hope and readily give thanks to those who care. For Christians the joy of Christmas is found in the Eucharist and the crib. We give thanks to God for the gift of his Son who cried out from the manger to remind us of the continuing plight of the homeless, refugees and those escaping terror. When we gather as far as restrictions allow us, we remember what it is to be a family no matter how few we are or how distant we are from each other. The Holy Family was only three people yet proved to be the source of a great love which has overflowed into our lives two millennia later. May our families have the child Jesus at their centre as a source of love and a true source of strength. May this Christmas time be happy, blessed and peaceful. 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.

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1st



The birth of a child is always a sign of hope ... hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.

Gospel Reflection for the Holy Family

When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. We are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.