

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, 9th January 2022
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

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

Mary Mason

and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time

Michael Moore

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,

Christine & David Fitzsimmons

MASSES TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday	8th Jan	6.00pm	Christine Crowley-Johnson L.D.
Sunday	9th	11.30am	Parishioners
Monday	10th	9.00am	Christine & David Fitzsimmons (Sick)
Tuesday	11th	9.00am	Homeless people
Wednesday	12th	7.00pm	Freda Renton 90 th B'day Celebration
Thursday	13th	9.00am	Special Intention (J & R D)
Friday	14th	No Mass	
Saturday	15th	6.00pm	Michael Moore (Anniv) Billy Reid (B'day)
Sunday	16th	11.30pm	Parishioners

A BIG THANK YOU

from Fr Anthony, Deacon Malcolm & Deacon Chris for the good wishes, cards, and gifts for Christmas. May God bless you all.

First Holy Communion Preparation

As part of the First Holy Communion Preparation Programme, sessions were due to begin on Saturday 15 January. Unfortunately, as we are all too aware, the Pandemic has taken another turn for the worse since this announcement. Therefore, we feel it would not be in the best interests of the children and parents/carers to gather at this moment in time. After discussion with our Catechists, we have decided to do **two preparation sessions** for this year's programme. They will be:

- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** preparation (date TBC) in Lent, which begins this year on 2 March. The Sacrament will be given at a date during Lent as well.
- **Sacrament of Eucharist preparation** (date TBC)

Both will, of course, depend on how things are going with the Pandemic. We will also provide some booklets/information connected to the Sacramental Programme so parents/carers can work through

these with their children. **We will announce shortly the dates when these will be available.**

Unfortunately, none of this is perfect but we hope that these measures will at least afford the children some appreciation of the beauty of the gifts they are to receive.

Also, and probably most importantly at this stage, **First Holy Communion dates remain the same.**

Fr. Anthony

Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 18 January at 6:30pm

This will now take place by Zoom. A link will be forwarded shortly to the members. Any items for the agenda to be given to a member of the Council.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

Our collection, to send a parish gift, will continue in 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.

Recommended Reading.

Time for a Change: Pocket Seminar for Reflection and Growth by Anselm Grün

We are frequently faced with decisions about whether to make small or major changes to our lives. Sometimes it's better to hang on and examine our circumstances from a fresh perspective. This book can help with those situations. It asks the right questions which each of us can answer for ourselves. There's plenty of space for writing and jotting down notes, along with practical advice for everyday use on putting your answers to work. The result is an essential companion for reflection and growth.

Redemptorist Publication. Available on Amazon.

Gospel Reflection for the Baptism of the Lord **New Beginnings**



Now, when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This is a great moment for Jesus, a moment when he receives affirmation from God his Father. For the rest of us it is also a momentous occasion. Jesus’ baptism came at the start of his public ministry and marked a new beginning for us all. The story invites us to look at our own beginnings in light of Jesus’ ministry. What have we made of our lives so far? Is there anything we can point to that we feel might have particularly pleased God? Coming so close to the beginning of the year, this feast day is a perfect invitation to reflect.

Another thing we learn from this gospel reading is that Jesus was not alone; he was enabled by the Holy Spirit who descended in the bodily form of a dove. The really exciting news is that according to John, we too receive the Holy Spirit in our baptism. We are not alone in our struggles. We too are enabled. That’s a genuinely powerful belief.

As we begin yet another new year, we set about facing our challenges with a renewed courage and a renewed faith in the Holy Spirit. We begin again with an appreciation that our baptism is more than just a distant childhood memory.