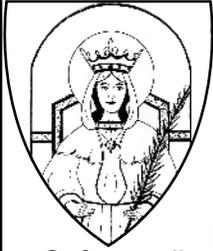
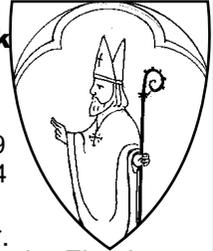


Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.



Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11
Tel: 546 3574 - Email: olqom@rcaol.co.uk
Website: queenofmartyrs.org.uk



PASTORAL AREA of St Raphael and St Paul

Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289
Blessed Sacrament 474 2682. St Teresa's 226 1354

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Kelly.

Deacons: Chris Housbey & Malcolm Fletcher.

Safeguarding Representatives: Catherine Housbey & Malcolm Fletcher.

Easter Week 2.

24th April

Gospel Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter Looking for Truth

Today's gospel reading has a disturbing element for those of us who harbour doubts over what Jesus asks us to believe. Disturbingly Jesus tells us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Because we are used to beatitudes having a flip side we somehow imagine the unspoken words to be "... And woe to those who ask for forensic evidence!" We imagine that it is sacrilegious to express doubt or search for proof and so we keep our doubts to ourselves. Thomas however had no such inhibition.

When the disciples told Thomas that the crucified Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared amongst them in the upper room, Thomas declared that unless he could see the mark of the nails and put his hand into Jesus' side he could not believe.

Thomas was a loving and courageous disciple of Jesus. Thomas wasn't someone who would have thrown his faith away or turned his back on Jesus, but nor was he a man who would say he believed something that he didn't or that he understood something that was beyond him. Importantly, Jesus does not scold Thomas for asking for proof; on the contrary, Jesus is quick to give physical confirmation of his resurrection.

Perhaps the message here is that if we want to believe, God will show us a way. Thomas teaches us not to be afraid to express doubt. For Thomas, doubt was not the same as disbelieving. Thomas's doubts proved stepping-stones to faith. Pretending that we believe things we don't, or claiming to understand things that elude us is a shaky foundation for faith. Doubt is not the same thing as disbelief, and faith only eludes us when we give up looking for the truth.

**We give a VERY WARM WELCOME to Fr John Boles
who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Columbians.
Fr John will be here on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th April.**

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen



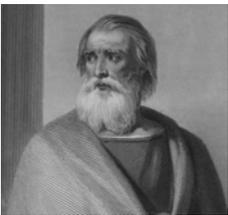
Fidelis of Sigmaringen, O.F.M. Cap. (1577 - 1622) was a Capuchin friar who was involved in the catholic Counter-Reformation, and was martyred by his opponents at Seewis im Prättigau, now part of Switzerland. Fidelis was canonized in 1746. **His feast day is on April 24.**

From Grüşch he went to preach at Seewis, where, with great energy, he exhorted the Catholics to constancy in the faith. After a Calvinist had discharged his musket at him in the Church, the Catholics entreated him to leave the place. He answered that death was his gain and his joy, and that he was ready to lay down his life in God's cause. On his road back to Grüşch, he met twenty Calvinist soldiers with a minister at their head. They called him a false prophet, and urged him to embrace their sect. He answered: "I am sent to you to confute, not to embrace your heresy.

The Catholic religion is the faith of all ages, I fear not death." One of them beat him down to the ground by a stroke on the head with his backsword. Fidelis rose again on his knees, and stretching forth his arms in the form of a cross, said with a feeble voice "Pardon my enemies, O Lord: blinded by passion they know not what they do. Lord Jesus, have mercy on me. Mary, Mother of God, succor me!" Another sword stroke clove his skull, and he fell to the ground and lay in a pool of his own blood. The soldiers, not content with this, added many stab wounds to his body with their long knives, and hacked-off his left leg, as they said, to punish him for his many journeys into those parts to preach to them.

It is said that a Catholic woman lay concealed near the place of Fidelis' martyrdom as the saint was slain. After the soldiers had left, she came out to assess the incident and found the martyr's eyes open, fixed on the heavens. He was buried by Catholics the next day.

Apostle Saint Mark was one of Christ's 70 disciples, one of the four evangelists and the traditional author of the second Gospel, The Book of Mark.



One of Christ's 70 disciples and the four evangelists, Saint Mark was born in Cyrene, Libya. He travelled with Saint Barnabas and Saint Paul on many religious missions, during which he founded the Church of Alexandria. Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13). St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice. His feast day is celebrated on April 25.

He died circa April 25, 68 A.D. in Alexandria, Egypt.
In the 9th century, his relics were relocated to Venice.

**St George born to a Gerontios and Polychronia
a Roman officer and a Greek native of Lydda.
Both were Christians from noble families of the
Anici and George, Georgios in the original
Greek, was raised to follow their faith.**



When George was old enough, he was welcomed into Diocletian's army. By his late 20's, George became a Tribunus and served as an imperial guard for the Emperor at Nicomedia. Diocletian, who hated Christians, announced that every Christian the army passed would be arrested and every other soldier should offer a sacrifice to the Roman gods. George refused to abide by the order and told Diocletian, who was angry but greatly valued his friendship with George's father.

When George announced his beliefs before his peers, Diocletian was unable to keep the news to himself.

To save George, Diocletian attempted to convert him to believe in the Roman gods, offered him land, money and slaves in exchange for offering a sacrifice to the Roman gods, and made several other offers that George refused. Finally, after exhausting all other options, Diocletian ordered George's execution. In preparation for his death, George gave his money to the poor and was sent for several torture sessions. He was lacerated on a wheel of swords and required resuscitation three times, but still George did not turn from God.

On April 23, 303 A.D., George was decapitated before Nicomedia's outer wall. His body was sent to Lydda for burial, and other Christians went to honour George as a martyr. There are several stories about George fighting dragons, a dragon or crocodile made its nest at a spring that provided water to Silene, believed to be modern-day Cyrene in Libya. The people were unable to collect water and so attempted to remove the dragon from its nest on several occasions. To no avail. They decided that a maiden would be just as effective as sending a sheep. The townspeople chose the victim by drawing straws. This continued until one day the princess' straw was drawn. The monarch begged for her to be spared but the people would not have it. She was offered to the dragon, but before she could be devoured, George appeared. He faced the dragon, protected himself with the sign of the Cross, and slayed the dragon. After saving the town, the citizens abandoned their paganism and were all converted to Christianity.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday.

On this day we are reminded that there is no sin so great that God cannot forgive.

We may have put our own weaknesses to the back of our minds, but today is an invitation to put all our troubles before God.

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

Liturgy for the Week

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin

Saturday	23rd	6.00pm	Pauline Walkden
Sunday	24th	11.30am	Carrie Loughlin
Monday	25th	9.00am	Michael McNally (11th Anniv)
		1.00pm	Joseph Banks Funeral service
Tuesday	26th	9.00am	Eamonn Connolly L.D.
Wednesday	27th	9.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday	28th	1.00pm	Margaret Hagan
Friday	29th	No Mass	
Saturday	30th	6.00pm	Baby Bella (Sick)
Sunday	01st	11.30am	Special intention

Recently Baptised Skyler-Priya Carter

Your prayers are asked for those who have

Died recently

Baby Zackery Ester Murphy

Anniversaries and Birthdays

Rose Connolly

Please pray too for all those who are lonely or housebound and for those who are sick, at home or in hospital, especially.

<i>Angela Adlen</i>	<i>John Murphy</i>	<i>Canon Brendan Alger</i>
<i>Angela Gregory</i>	<i>Josie Dunne</i>	<i>Christine & David Fitzsimmons</i>
<i>Baby Bella</i>	<i>Kenny Morley</i>	<i>David & Julie Pearce</i>
<i>Bernie Boyd</i>	<i>Margaret Bradley</i>	<i>Eleanor Mawdsley</i>
<i>Brian Threlfall</i>	<i>Margaret Lace</i>	<i>G.,</i>
<i>David Holgate</i>	<i>Dave McLoughlin</i>	<i>Joan, Andreas Samaras</i>
<i>Diane Bell</i>	<i>Paul & Kate</i>	<i>Margaret & Joseph Maloney</i>
<i>Eddie Unsworth</i>	<i>Peter Fraser</i>	<i>MP.,</i>
<i>Eileen Guy</i>	<i>Robbie Ross</i>	<i>TC.,</i>
<i>Ellen Cooke</i>	<i>Toni Dal</i>	<i>Vassilis Alamaniotis</i>
<i>Janet Clark</i>	<i>Joan Turner</i>	