

# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin.

Stonebridge Lane Croxteth Liverpool 11

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**PASTORAL AREA of St Raphael and St Paul**

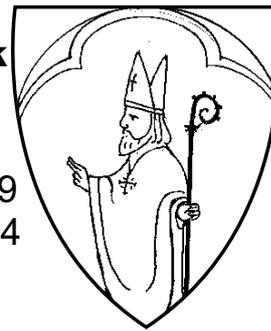
Holy Name and Our Lady & St Philomena 476 0289

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 6**

**22nd May**

## Gospel Reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter. God Knows No Orphans



There are times in our lives when we feel a sense of abandonment. We might be left with feelings of panic, despair and emptiness at the break up of a relationship, the loss of a loved one; or when the future we thought so secure is turned on its head through job loss, financial ruin or illness. The disciples must be feeling a little like this today at the prospect of Jesus' departure.

In today's gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for life without his physical presence. He is teaching them how to transcend these moments of fear and uncertainty "Those who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them..." Undoubtedly, knowing we are loved helps

transcend feelings of abandonment, but Jesus reminds us that love is a two way street. Love isn't just a feeling it's a decision, and staying in God's love means making a decision to keep his words. This doesn't mean God will no longer love us if we fail to keep a commandment, but it does mean that wanting to keep his words is at the heart of our relationship. It's not about trying to live up to an impossible set of expectations; it's about developing into confident Christians in an atmosphere of love and support.

Today's gospel speaks to those who are suffering insecurity and fear. As a Christian community we have a responsibility for promoting belief in God's love and in the continued support of the Holy Spirit. In this way, when any one of us comes to grief, that belief can come to the rescue. For those who know they are loved, healing comes more quickly. There can be no abandonment in a kingdom that knows no orphans.

### Free Guitar Lessons

*Sr. Linda is offering free guitar lessons to allow you to practise that gift by playing the guitar at the Saturday evening Mass.*

*The details are:*

*Thursday Evenings*

*Venue: OLQM Parish Community Room*

*Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm*

*Age: 8 years old upwards*

*You will need to provide your own guitar.*

*For further information please contact*

*Sr. Linda: 546 4820 or email: [srlindafma@gmail.com](mailto:srlindafma@gmail.com)*



Roots in the City Tea Garden.  
Free Woodworking Workshops

### Plot to Plate

La Salle Kitchen Garden

Next to De La Salle Academy, former Brothers' House, Carr Lane East, L11 4SF  
Want to learn about growing and cooking your own fresh food? We'll spend time working outdoors and preparing and eating a meal together. This session is ideal for people wanting to get active and feel better! Every Monday 11.30-2.30 starting 23rd May, You must be aged 18 over.

To sign up or find out more  
contact **Faiths4Change:**  
[rachel@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:rachel@faiths4change.org.uk)  
or phone: 07715087655.

### **Saint Rita of Cascia, Feast day 22<sup>nd</sup> May**



Like Elizabeth Ann Seton, Rita of Cascia was a wife, mother, widow, and member of a religious community. Her holiness was reflected in each phase of her life. Born at Roccaporena in central Italy, Rita wanted to become a nun but was pressured at a young age into marrying a harsh and cruel man. During her 18-year marriage, she bore and raised two sons. After her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons had died, Rita tried to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Unsuccessful at first because she was a widow, Rita eventually succeeded. Over the years, her austerity, prayerfulness, and charity became legendary. When she developed wounds on her forehead, people quickly associated them with the wounds from Christ's crown of thorns. She meditated frequently on Christ's passion. Her care for the sick nuns was especially loving. She also counselled lay people who came to her monastery. Beatified in 1626, Rita was not canonized until 1900. She has acquired the reputation, together with Saint Jude, as a saint of impossible cases. Many people visit her tomb each year.

**Reflection** Although we can easily imagine an ideal world in which to live out our baptismal vocation, such a world does not exist. An "If only ...." approach to holiness never quite gets underway, never produces the fruit that God has a right to expect. Rita became holy because she made choices that reflected her baptism and her growth as a disciple of Jesus. Her overarching, lifelong choice was to cooperate generously with God's grace, but many small choices were needed to make that happen.

Few of those choices were made in ideal circumstances—not even when Rita became an Augustinian nun.

**Saint Rita is the Patron Saint of:** Difficult Marriages, Impossible Causes, Infertility, Parenthood.

### **St Bede the Venerable, Feast Day 25<sup>th</sup> May.**

Bede was born at Sunderland, monk of Jarrow, biblical scholar, and first English historian. As priest he devoted his life to the study of scripture. He considered his 25 works of scripture commentary his most important work, but many scholars regard his History of the English people, finished in 731 as his most significant. He died singing the "Glory be". Boniface, on hearing of his death, wrote "the candle of the Church, lit by the Holy Spirit, was extinguished."

### **Saint Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi's, Feast day 25<sup>th</sup> May**



Mystical ecstasy is the elevation of the spirit to God in such a way that the person is aware of this union with God while both internal and external senses are detached from the sensible world. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi was so generously given this special gift of God that she is called the "ecstatic saint." Catherine de' Pazzi was born into a noble family in Florence in 1566. The normal course would have been for her to have married into wealth and enjoyed comfort, but Catherine chose to follow her own path. At 9, she learned to meditate from the family confessor. She made her first Communion at the then-early age of 10, and made a vow of virginity one month later. At 16, Catherine entered the Carmelite convent in Florence because she could receive Communion daily there.

Catherine had taken the name Mary Magdalene and had been a novice for a year when she became critically ill. Death seemed near, so her superiors let her make her profession of vows in a private ceremony from a cot in the chapel. Immediately after, Mary Magdalene fell into an ecstasy that lasted about two hours. This was repeated after Communion on the following 40 mornings. These ecstasies were rich experiences of union with God and contained marvellous insights into divine truths.

As a safeguard against deception and to preserve the revelations, her confessor asked Mary Magdalene to dictate her experiences to sister secretaries. Over the next six years, five large volumes were filled. The first three books record ecstasies from May of 1584 through Pentecost week the following year. This week was a preparation for a severe five-year trial. The fourth book records that trial and the fifth is a collection of letters concerning reform and renewal. Another book, Admonitions, is a collection of her sayings arising from her experiences in the formation of women religious.

The extraordinary was ordinary for this saint. She read the thoughts of others and predicted future events. During her lifetime, Mary Magdalene appeared to several persons in distant places and cured a number of sick people. It would be easy to dwell on the ecstasies and pretend that Mary Magdalene only had spiritual highs. This is far from true. It seems that God permitted her this special closeness to prepare her for the five years of desolation that followed when she experienced spiritual dryness. She was plunged into a state of darkness in which she saw nothing but what was horrible in herself and all around her. She had violent temptations and endured great physical suffering. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi died in 1607 at age 41, and was canonized in 1669.

**L** On Earth Day, the Church invites Catholic communities around the world to participate in Laudato Si' Week 22 – 29 May 2022. The weeklong global event will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care and unite the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to listen and respond to the cry of God's creation.

**A** The theme for the week is "Listening and Journeying Together." The eight-day global event will be guided by the following quote from Pope Francis' Laudato Si':

**O** *"Bringing the human family together to protect our common home" (LS 13)*

**SI'** Locally, thousands of events will bring the message of Laudato Si' to everyday Catholics, helping bring this global celebration to life and changing countless communities around the world. For events globally see <https://laudatosiweek.org/allevnts/>

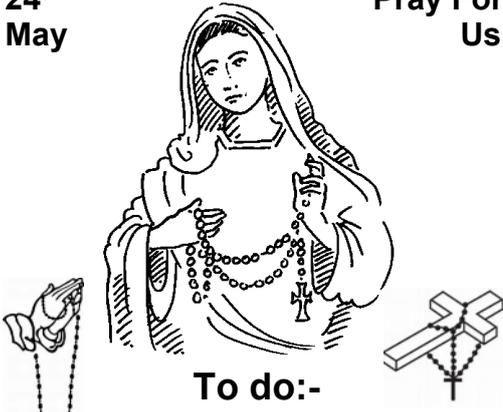
**MAY 2022**



## Our Lady Help of Christians

24<sup>th</sup>  
May

Pray For  
Us



**To do:-**

Pray the Rosary on this day and on every day in May for peace in Ukraine.

**Hail Mary Full of Grace  
The Lord Is With Thee  
Blessed Art Thou  
Amongst Women.**

## Missing Children's Day

**Day of Prayer 25th May**

Every day another family will go through the trauma of their child going missing. Some of these children you will hear about, but many more you won't. They may not all make the headlines, but each and every missing child means the world to their family. And when that world is torn apart and they feel as if no one else is listening, searching or caring. On this day we are asked to pray for the children who are missing, for grief stricken families and for the volunteers who spend their time searching.



**Sweet Jesus, we pray for all  
the Children who are missing  
Their Families, Friends and Loved Ones  
May God Bless them All**



## Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Feast day 27<sup>th</sup> May

In the year 596, some 40 monks set out from Rome to evangelize the Anglo-Saxons in England. Leading the group was Augustine, the prior of their monastery. Hardly had he and his men reached Gaul when they heard stories of the ferocity of the Anglo-Saxons and of the treacherous waters of the English Channel. Augustine returned to Rome and to Gregory the Great—the pope who had sent them—only to be assured by him that their fears were groundless.

Augustine set out again. This time the group crossed the English Channel and landed in the territory of Kent, ruled by King Ethelbert, a pagan married to a Christian, Bertha. Ethelbert received them kindly, set up a residence for them in Canterbury and within the year, on Pentecost Sunday 597, was himself baptized. After being consecrated a bishop in France, Augustine returned to Canterbury, where he founded his see. He constructed a church and monastery near where the present cathedral, begun in 1070, now stands. As the faith spread, additional sees were established at London and Rochester.

Work was sometimes slow and Augustine did not always meet with success. Attempts to reconcile the Anglo-Saxon Christians with the original Briton Christians—who had been driven into western England by Anglo-Saxon invaders—ended in dismal failure. Augustine failed to convince the Britons to give up certain Celtic customs at variance with Rome and to forget their bitterness, helping him evangelise their Anglo-Saxon conquerors.

Labouring patiently, Augustine wisely heeded the missionary principles—quite enlightened for the times—suggested by Pope Gregory: purify rather than destroy pagan temples and customs; let pagan rites and festivals be transformed into Christian feasts; retain local customs as far as possible. The limited success Augustine achieved in England before his death in 605, a short eight years after his arrival, would eventually bear fruit long after in the conversion of England. Augustine of Canterbury can truly be called the "Apostle of England."



**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](http://www.churchservices.tv/croxteth)

**Liturgy for the Week**

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs & St Swithin**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Parishioners Intentions
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11.30am</b>	Parishioners Intentions
<b>Monday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Thomas Grice
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	For a safe confinement
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Beppy RIP
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Parishioners Intentions
		<b>12.30pm</b>	Funeral Service, George Brazie
<b>Friday</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6,00pm</b>	Special Intention M.N.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30.am</b>	Barbara Newport

**Baptisms**



Albie Groves  
Michael Rimmer  
Maddox Rimmer  
Oakley Ainsworth  
Willow Iris Swatton



**Your prayers are asked for those who have**

**Died recently**

Susan Cavanagh Allan Harrington  
Maureen Keatly Tommy Jones

**Anniversaries and Birthdays**

Sr. Kathleen Hamilton (2nd)

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

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

**See All Things New:**

**An Online Retreat for Young Adults in their 20s and 30s July 27, 2022**

We invite you to set out on a journey with us, to see your life with new eyes, and to consider how your life may be transformed. Once upon a time a young man began a journey that would transform him from soldier into a saint. What led him to set out on this journey? What did he experience along the way? How can you learn from these experiences in your life?

As part of this retreat (offered online, or residentially at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales) we will offer you material each day for your own personal prayer and reflection, as well as opportunities to encounter others, share your reflections and listen to their stories. You will have the opportunity to speak to a spiritual guide who can help you navigate your own faith journey. We'd love young adults in their 20s and 30s who are based in the UK and Ireland to come and join us to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius of Loyola!

: <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/events/see-all-things-new-a-retreat-for-young-adults-in-their-20s-and-30s>