

**Saint Josephine Bakhita**  
**Virgin**  
**Mass**



At the beginning of this Eucharistic celebration we should like briefly to recall the person of St Josephine Bakhita.

She was born in Sudan in 1869 and died in Schio in February 1947. Taken prisoner while still young, she knew the anguish of captivity and slavery.

But the goodness of God, who “takes care of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air”, guided this Sudanese slave to freedom and the Faith, with the result that she consecrated her entire life to God in the Institute of the Canossian Daughters of Charity.

Bakhita is not the name she received from her parents at birth. Her terrible experience had even made her forget her real name. Bakhita, which means “Lucky”, is the name given to her by her captors.

Her humility, her simplicity and her constant smile and kindness won the hearts of many. She used to repeat to everyone, all the time: **“Be kind, love one another, love the Lord and pray for those who do not know Him. If you only knew what a great grace it is to know the Lord!”**

Bakhita has left us with a promise that we now accept with confidence and joy: “Don’t be sad, I shall be with you: if the Lord allows me, I shall send many graces from Heaven for the salvation of souls”.

SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, *VIRGIN*



MASS

**Entrance Antiphon**

Is. 48,10.17

See, I have purified you for myself like silver. I have tested you in the crucible of affliction. I lead you in the way you must go.

**Opening Prayer**

God our Father, in your mercy you guided Saint Josephine, virgin, from the sadness of slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and the bride of Christ. Grant that we may imitate her in loving Jesus crucified and in persevering in the practice of charity and forgiveness.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer over the Gifts**

Accept, o God, these offerings, and grant that, following the example of Saint Josephine, virgin, our life may become a gift pleasing to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Preface:** *from the Common of Virgins or Saints (Religious)*

**Communion Antiphon**

Mt 5,5.8

Blessed are the meek: they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

**Prayer after Communion**

God all-powerful, you have fed us with the bread of life. Grant that, following the example of Saint Josephine, virgin, we may be grateful to you for the gift of faith and spend our lives in the service of the Gospel.

Through Christ our Lord.

### First Reading

*Put on your loveliest garments, Jerusalem*

52,1-6

From the book of the prophet Isaiah

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Sion: put on your loveliest garments, holy city of Jerusalem; for never shall the uncircumcised and the unclean enter you again. Rise up, captive Jerusalem, shake off the dust! Loose your neck from the collar that binds it, O captive daughter of Sion! The Lord says, You were sold, but no price was paid, and without payment you shall be ransomed. The Lord God says: At the beginning my people went down into Egypt to live there, and at the end it was the Assyrians who oppressed them; but now what do I find here? says the Lord. My people carried off and no price paid, their rulers derided, and my name reviled all day long. Thus my people shall know my name; they shall know that it is I who speak: here I am.

This is the Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 123

R. I praise you, Lord, for you have freed me.

I lift my eyes to you,  
whose throne is in heaven,  
as the eyes of slaves follow their master's hand.

As the eyes of the slave-girl follow the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes are turned to the Lord our God, waiting for kindness from him.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy,  
for we have suffered insult enough; too long have we had to suffer  
the insults of the wealthy, the scorn of proud men.

### Second reading

*While we were still sinners, Christ died for us*

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

5,3b-11

Let us even exult in our present sufferings, because we know that suffering trains us to endure, and endurance brings proof that we have stood the test, and this proof is

the ground of hope. Such a hope is no mockery, because God's love has flooded our inmost heart through the Holy Spirit he has given us. For at the very time when we were still powerless, then Christ died for the wicked. Even for a just man one of us would hardly die, though perhaps for a good man one might actually brave death; but Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that is God's own proof of his love towards us. And so, since we have now been justified by Christ's sacrificial death, we shall all the more certainly be saved from final retribution. For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life! But that is not all: we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus, through whom we have now been granted reconciliation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia.

### **Gospel**

*Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.*

From the Gospel according to St Luke

6,27-28; 32-33; 36-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners do that much. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect?"

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned.

This is the Word of the Lord.

(N.B. English texts taken mainly from the New English Bible)