

St Josephine Bakhita Feast Day 8th February



St. Bakhita, assist all those who are
trapped in a state of modern
slavery and human trafficking;

Intercede with God on their behalf
so that they will be released from
their chains of captivity. Those
whom man enslaves, let God set
free. Provide comfort to survivors
of modern slavery and human
trafficking; let them look at you as
an example of hope and faith.

Santa Marta Group
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St Josephine Bakhita

is the patron saint of victims of human trafficking. Born in Sudan in 1869, St Bakhita was kidnapped age nine and sold into slavery. She was repeatedly bought and sold, enduring routine violence, torture and humiliation.

She was eventually brought to Italy, where she was entrusted to the Canossian Sisters in Venice. It was there that she was liberated and came to know and experience God's love.

In 1890, Bakhita asked to be baptised, receiving the name Josephine, and in 1896 she took her vows as a Canossian Sister. She lived the next 50 years serving the community, known for her kindness to children, and to all those suffering. She was canonised in 2000.

Today, modern slavery has **50 million victims** globally, and 130,000 in the UK. Pope Francis describes this as a “**crime against humanity**”, and we are all called to combat it.



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If you suspect modern slavery, call:

☎ 999 ☎ 0800 555 111