

Celebrate St Josephine Bakhita's Feast Day on February 8 2019. This is a day of prayer, reflection and action to stop human trafficking

Pope Francis has declared the feast of St Josephine Bakhita on February 8 to be the world day of prayer, reflection and action to stop human trafficking.

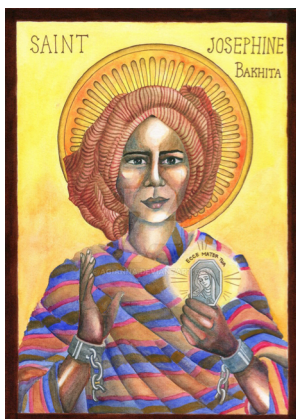
Josephine Bakhita knew the sorrow of losing her freedom and family as a young girl when she was taken as a slave. The UN estimates that one in every three victims of trafficking is a child.

We invite you to mark this day by joining your community in prayer, reflecting on the millions of people living in slavery-like conditions around the world and doing something that could change the lives of these people.

Some actions to take:

- Learn about human trafficking and tell others.
- Pray for victims of human trafficking and an end to slavery.
- Purchase slavery-free goods such as chocolate, coffee, clothes and electronic goods. Remember, someone else may be paying a very high price for your goods if they are not slavery-free.

Who was Josephine Bakhita?



Born in 1869 in Sudan, Josephine was 7 years old when taken by slave traders. She was bought and sold many times in the following decade.

Taken to Italy by a family who 'owned' her, she met the Canossian Daughters of Charity, became a Catholic and joined the Canossian congregation.

She died in 1947 and was canonised in 2000.