

Saint Josephine Bakhita

- **Born/Died:** c. 1869–1947
- **Country:** Sudan / Italy
- **Feast Day:** 8 February
- **Patron of:** victims of slavery and human trafficking



Life

Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan and as a young girl was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated very harshly and passed between owners, experiencing great suffering. Eventually she was brought to Italy, where she was given to a kind family. There she met the Canossian Sisters and first learned about Christianity.

Hearing about God’s love changed Josephine’s life completely. She was baptised in 1890 and later chose to become a nun herself, joining the Canossian Daughters of Charity. She spent over fifty years serving God and helping others with gentleness and humility. Despite her painful past, Josephine forgave those who had hurt her and became a symbol of hope and freedom. She was canonised as a saint in 2000, and today she is remembered as a voice for those still suffering from slavery and injustice.

Famous Quote

“I am definitely loved, and whatever happens to me — I am awaited by this Love.”