

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HOLY CROSS, ST MATTHEW AND ST GILBERT, ECCLES

Services held at: Holy Cross, Patricroft and St Matthew's, Winton
Parish Office: Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 8QD

Feast of the Epiphany

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 1

CHRIST FOR ALL PEOPLE

Throughout Advent, we read the prophecies of the Old Testament - Jewish writers foretelling the coming of their Messiah. Then, on Christmas Day we celebrated a great birthday - Jesus, the Saviour and King of the Jews, that long-awaited Saviour, born some 2000 years ago. The ancient promises delivered by the prophets to the Jews of old were now fulfilled. The Son of God had come into the world, and we read of Jewish shepherds rushing from their fields to pay homage. And then, eight days later, we came to the "naming" ceremony, with the new-born child presented in the Jewish Temple, and formally given the name "Jesus," (Saviour). An old and wise Jew took him in his arms that day, and spoke of glory, through him, to the people of Israel - *his* people, the *Jewish* people. But he hinted, too, at more. Simeon's great prayer to God spoke also of a "light to enlighten the *Gentiles*" (Lk 2:32) and, true to this, from distant eastern lands, Gentile wise men were already travelling to see a "prophecy" they had witnessed in the stars above. Today we celebrate

their arrival, and for us who are not, for the most part, of Jewish descent, the story becomes personal and our reason for celebrating these past few weeks makes sense.

The wisdom of those "wise men from the east" was greater than even they could comprehend. They were a part of God's plan. The God of Israel? Yes, but the one true God of all creation too; a God who cares for all the world and all its people; a God who, through promises made to Abraham and to his descendants, sent his Son to save us all, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Today is the revelation of that wondrous Truth - God's "Epiphany" as he reveals his plan for all time to those first Gentile visitors. They came with gifts - but took away a gift greater than any of them. They, like Simeon, now beheld the "light to enlighten the Gentiles" and, as they offered gold to *their* King, incense to *their* God, and myrrh to the one who would die for *their* salvation, they believed in the truth of their quest, and went home again filled with the love of a God they had never known until now. Their lives could never be the same again - and nor can ours.

And so, all the rejoicing of these past weeks is our own. All the carolling, the festivities and the gifts to share - they are ours, because Jesus is ours and we are God's own children.

Standing with the Magi and marvelling at the revelation, what can we bring in return for the Life we receive? Just our hearts - to love and to care in His name.

"EMBRACE" TRAINING

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in the Embrace Project, for befriending and visiting the elderly. There will be a **choice of training sessions** for all our volunteers **THIS TUESDAY (9th) OR Thursday 18th January from 7.00-8.30pm** in the parish meeting room at Holy Cross. (*Please note slightly later time*). We encourage attendance by members of the **Social Outreach Committee** who commissioned this, by **members of the SVP** who will be greatly helped in their work, by **Eucharistic Ministers** who already visit the sick with Holy Communion or who are willing to consider being available for this important aspect of their ministry, as well as by the **new volunteers** and **any others** who may now be interested. **Please sign the list at the back of church—registration is important (for 1 session only)**. We are grateful to Sister Mary Considine who will be attending each session to provide the training.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Peter, Janet, George (age 13), Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, Daniel, Fred, Joan, Sr Moira, John, Jim, Sheila, Alex, Michael, Martin, Joanne, Aidan, Desmond, Eamon, John, Stefa, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Ann, Malcolm, Harvey, Claire, Louise and baby Maisy, Lewis (13 yrs. old), Caitlin (age 12), Loren (age 18), Marie, Paddy, John, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Dennis and Gerald, May, Louise Curley, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Joseph, Martin, Ishrat, Elaine, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: Jim O'Reilly, Anne-Marie Heaton, Anne Benyon, Barbara Cooper, Jimmy Cooney, Joseph Machege Machota, Fr James Creaton, Fr Michael Fraher, Canon Eugene Dolan, Mary McLaughlin, Susan Barry.

Anniversaries: Elaine Murphy, Shirley Mary Beckitt, Margaret Galbraith, Daniel Williams.

Remembrance: Baby Gabriel Preston, Carrie Tucker, Vernon Wilde, Helena Yannery, Martin Tighe, Bernard Chinery, Thomas and Violet Kirk, Arthur and Marie Read, John Sullivan, Mary and Michael Lambert, Nora and William Yellop, Paddy McLeron, Jean Edwards, Jane and Neill McCawley, Christine Galligan, Sarah and Patrick McDermott, Winifred and Bill Hampton, deceased members of the Pelosi, Stafford and McDermott families.

We also pray: for Douglas Ward and family, for Niala, for world peace, for the people of the Philippines, for the people of Southern Cameroon, for Bishop John and the restructuring of our diocese, in thanksgiving, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, and for a number of special intentions.

Anne Benyon: It was with great sadness last week that we reported the death on Boxing Day of Anne, who retired so recently from her role as Community Hall co-ordinator and who has been such a faithful servant of the parish in so many different ways. She will be greatly missed, as we commend her with confidence into God's hands. Her funeral will take place at Holy Cross church on Wednesday 24th January, 9.45am.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Moya, Michael
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Angel

OFFERTORY

Collections: 23rd/24th December: See printed version
Christmas Day: See printed version
30th/31st December: See printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection
Next week: Annual "White Flower" Appeal

- *New to the parish?*
 - *Know someone who is sick or in hospital?*
 - *Like a visit from the priest?*
 - *Think the parish may be able to help you, or you us, in any way?*
- Please speak to Fr Martin, after Mass or at any convenient time

MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil Mass):	6.30pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning:	9.00am at St Matthew's 10.30am at Holy Cross (with Children's Liturgy)
	<i>Tea and Coffee are served after both morning Masses</i>
Weekdays:	See Weekday Calendar below
Holydays:	11.00am at Holy Cross 7.00pm at St Matthew's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Matthew's
6.00-6.20pm at Holy Cross
(or at any reasonable time on request)

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

by arrangement

At least 6 months' notice is required for weddings, and a time of preparation is also required before Baptisms. Please speak to Fr Martin or Sr Jenny after Mass

WEEKDAY CALENDAR *(Week beginning Monday 8th January 2018)*

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	9.15am Mass at St Gilbert's School with Years 2 and 6—All welcome 7.00pm Embrace Training in the Parish Room at Holy Cross. Please register today!
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Thursday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass
Friday:	6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 7pm Mass and Divine Mercy
Saturday (daytime):	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Matthew's followed by 12 noon Mass and Novena 2.00pm Class at Holy Cross (Parish Room) for Sacramental Programme children attending non-Catholic schools

DUTCH BULBS ON SALE

Next weekend, 13th/14th January, there will be a sale of Dutch Bulbs after all Masses. All funds will be donated to CAFOD. Thank you to Mary for organising this—do, please, give your support.

PIETY SHOP AT HOLY CROSS

Please continue to check out the newly refurbished and restocked repository. We will try to keep up with seasonal changes, so expect Easter cards and First Communion cards and gifts to appear in good time. **Mother's day cards and gifts will be arriving** soon. You should find an excellent amount of choice, and cheaper prices than on the high street. **ALSO** remember all the good we achieve by supporting **Fair Trade**—not as an occasional one-off, but as a regular commitment. Here we might pay a little more, but it makes a real difference for the growers and producers in the developing world. We should always think of this as another way of helping the people we support by our generosity to CAFOD. Again, we will try to offer different Fair trade choices as time goes by.

200 CLUB DRAW – November 2017

245	Jackie Farmer	£ 100
218	Sarah Morrissey	£ 30
221	C Pennington	£ 20
171	Dolores Traynor	£ 10

PARISH ADVENT CHALLENGE

Thank you for your wonderful response to the parish "World Gifts" Advent challenge. We have already received acknowledgement for the £750 sent in to provide all the materials and training needed for a water supply to a community in the developing world. Next week, once we have the final totals from our schools, we will let you know the total raised, and what else you have been able to provide through CAFOD World Gifts.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

A meeting for all on the programme will be announced soon. (First Communion Dates will then be given). There will be a class **this Saturday** (13th Jan) at **Holy Cross Presbytery** from 2-3pm for **all children on the programme who attend non-Catholic schools**.

ONLINE PARISH NEWSLETTER

It has been brought to our attention that some people are having difficulty accessing the parish newsletter online, and some think we have stopped updating it. **This is not the case!** Several weeks ago we had a technical issue with Google Drive (where the online newsletters are hosted), and had to change the URL (web address) for "This Week's Newsletter." If anyone has the current newsletter bookmarked (or saved as a favourite), it will be necessary to change your bookmark to the new address. (Access it via the Newsletter page to do this—Google Drive addresses are far too long to type in). If, on the other hand, you are finding that the page is not updating even when you access it in the normal way through our website, (and refreshing the page does not help), **clearing temporary internet files** should resolve the issue, in the event that your web browser may have stored an earlier version of the Menu-bar for quick access, preserving the old address for this week's copy. If problems remain, please let Fr Martin know. *(The latest Newsletter is normally posted online each Saturday in advance of its appearing in printed form at the back of church, and old copies remain accessible on the Newsletter page of the website).*

MINIBUS OUTING

The following excursion is planned:

Saturday 10th February, departing at 6.30pm - concert at the Bridgewater Hall, with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. A special deal with 12 tickets available in the Stalls at £2.00 each. Please sign up at the back of church. Contact Veronica via the parish office for more details.

KNITTING CLUB

... at the back of St Matthew's Church for knitting, a cup of tea and a chat. Please speak to Fr Martin or Bob.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:	Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)
<i>Email:</i>	secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<i>Office Email:</i>	office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Parish Website:	www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Parish Sister:	Sr Jenny (Franciscan Missionary of St Joseph)
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm) 0161 707 9537 all other times
<i>Email:</i>	srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Community Hall:	Enquiries to Steve Jackson or Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	07580 571839

Holy Cross RC Church

Liverpool Road
Patricroft
Eccles
M30 8QD

St Matthew's RC Church

Worsley Road
Winton
Eccles
M30 8BL

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Email: Sharon Devlin
sharon@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Schools:

Holy Cross and All Saints: 0161 789 4386
St Gilbert's: 0161 789 5035
St Patrick's High School: 0161 921 2300

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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey