

# 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

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 2

### TO SEE AS JESUS SEES

The story of Samuel, from today's First Reading, as a familiar one. The boy, Samuel, in the service of Eli the High Priest, does not yet know the Lord, so when he hears a voice calling him to wake, he assumes it must be the voice of his master and comes running. But Eli has not called, and Samuel returns to rest. He cannot imagine a life different from his own experience; he cannot imagine that the voice could mean something new and great - so he must have dreamt it. But a second time, and a third, that same voice is heard, and it is Eli who recognises what is happening. Samuel must open his mind to possibilities beyond his understanding. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

In the Gospel reading, John the Baptist is already attuned to the mind of God. He looks hard at the figure of another preacher walking by, and as he looks he sees a truth beyond all telling. This is the one who will take away the sins of the world. This is the one for whom he has been preparing the way. It is time for his own followers to leave, to face a new beginning with eager expectation. Jesus is the one they must follow from now on - but John is not sorry to see his friends and disciples go away. For this is God's plan, and God's plan is always good.

These first people to begin following Jesus have listened well to the words of John, and they too are open to wondrous possibilities. They see Jesus for who he really is - the Messiah - and one of them, Andrew, gives the news to his brother Simon. Simon, the simple, rugged fisherman - who could imagine what greatness he could achieve in the time to come? Jesus could! Jesus looked hard at him, and saw beyond what met the eye. He saw the truth, the

face of the rock on which his Church would one day stand firm - the face of Cephas, St Peter.

How dull might Samuel's life have been, had he not recognised what that call, "Samuel, Samuel" had meant? How dull might the lives of those disciples of John the Baptist have been, if their master had not looked hard and recognised who Jesus was? And what of Simon, had Jesus not looked deeply into his heart and called him to greatness, or indeed, had he himself not opened his heart to receive and to embrace the mission that Jesus came to bring?

Our world is a remarkable place and, graced by the glory of God, nothing is quite the way it seems. Each one of us is called by Jesus to wonders beyond our imagining. He looks deeply into the hearts of us all, and sees not our limitations but our full potential - the people we were meant to be, the people we can be if only we open the eyes of our mind to him, and see past the mundaneness of what we expect, to the glory only he can offer. And we can achieve this - with just a little Faith in his Word. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. Here I am, I come to do your will."

### ANNE BENYON

It was with great sadness 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 by this community and of course by her family, as we commend her with confidence into God's hands. Funeral arrangements are now finalised, and her Funeral Mass will take place at Holy Cross Church on Wednesday of next week, 24th January, commencing at 9.45am.

### "EMBRACE" TRAINING

Thank you to those who expressed an interest in the Embrace Project, for befriending and visiting the elderly, and to all those who attended last week's training. The final **training session** for our volunteers will be **THIS THURSDAY** (18th January) from **7.00-8.30pm** (possibly until 9pm) in the parish meeting room at Holy Cross. 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, and 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 is providing the training.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Winnie, Peter, George (age 13), Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, Daniel, Fred, Joan, Sr Moira, John, Jim, Sheila, 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, 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. Janet would like to thank you for your prayers, as her recovery continues well.

**Lately Dead:** James Euston, Kieron Quinn, Joyce Hardware, Jim O'Reilly, Anne-Marie Heaton (née Lundy), Anne Benyon, Barbara Cooper, Jimmy Cooney, Joseph Machege Machota, Fr James Creaton.

**Anniversaries:** V S Joseph, Tom Roddy, Elaine Murphy, Shirley Mary Beckitt.

**Remembrance:** Baby Gabriel Preston, Carrie Tucker, Vernon Wilde, Helena Yannery, deceased members of the Pelosi family.

**We also pray:** for Agnes, 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.

### READERS THIS WEEKEND

**6.30pm:** Lucy-Jo, Moya  
**9.00am:** Please log in or see list in church  
**10.30am:** Julius

### OFFERTORY

**Collections:** 6th/7th January: See printed version  
Crib Offerings: See printed version

### RETIRING COLLECTIONS

**This week:** Annual "White Flower" Appeal for SPUC  
**Next week:** No retiring collection next week

- *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

<b>Saturday (Vigil Mass):</b>	6.30pm at Holy Cross
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	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>
<b>Weekdays:</b>	See Weekday Calendar below
<b>Holydays:</b>	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 15th January 2018)

<b>Monday:</b>	9.00am Morning Prayer at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9.15am Mass</b> at <b>St Gilbert's School</b> with Years 5—All welcome <b>1.00pm Funeral Mass</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> for the late Anne-Marie Heaton (née Lundy). <i>May she rest in peace</i>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	8.45am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>10.30am Funeral Mass</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> for the late Myles Gilmerston. <i>May he rest in peace</i> 7.00pm Embrace Training in the Parish Room at Holy Cross. <b>Please register today!</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	6.30pm <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>7pm Mass</b> and Divine Mercy
<b>Saturday (daytime):</b>	11.00am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>St Matthew's</b> followed by <b>12 noon Mass</b> and Novena

## ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

The retiring collection this week goes to support the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, as they work especially at present against efforts to decriminalise abortion—a further move in society to devalue human life, sanctified by Christ at his birth.

### DUTCH BULBS ON SALE TODAY

**This 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 Slater for organising this—do, please, give your support.

## ANNUAL CHURCH UNITY SERVICE

**Next Sunday** (21st January), the annual Church Unity Service will take place at Eccles Congregational Church, Wellington Road, M30 ONP, with light refreshments served afterwards. Do, please, ensure that our Catholic community is well represented as we stand together as the Christians of Eccles.

**Thank you** to those members of our choirs who came along to the choir rehearsal for this event last Wednesday. There will be another rehearsal of the joint choir **this Monday** evening at 7.30pm at the Congregational Church (with tea and coffee available beforehand from 7.15pm). New members are still welcome to join. The final rehearsal will take place on the day itself at 1.45pm, before the commencement of the Service.

## YOUTH NEWS

Following our successful pizza lunch with other young people from our Salford Deanery, we were invited to the Bolton Deanery for a Youth Mass and yet more pizza! We came up with lots of exciting ways to work with other parishes in the Diocese but for now, we're concentrating on **establishing an Impact Group in this parish**. Watch this space for Youth News, which will no doubt include more pizza!

## ECUMENICAL MEN'S BREAKFAST

This joint-churches event will take place at the Jolly Carter, 118 Worsley Rd, M30 8LS, with Robert Goodall speaking about the history of St Mark's church. See poster at the back of church for booking details.

## ECUMENICAL LENT STUDY GROUPS

Watch this space for more information about these popular Lenten groups. Also, please see notice at the back of church seeking venues.

## 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. Once we have the final totals from our schools, we will let you know the final total raised, and what else you have been able to provide through CAFOD World Gifts.

## 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.

## MINIBUS OUTING

**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  
*Telephone:* 0161 789 4424  
*Mobile:* 07502 633383  
*Email:* frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
or via contact form on the parish website.

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Marie Twemlow  
*Telephone:* 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)  
*Email:* secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
*Office Email:* office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Website:** www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Sister:** Sr Jenny (Franciscan Missionary of St Joseph)  
*Telephone:* 0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm)  
0161 707 9537 all other times  
*Email:* srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Community Hall:** Enquiries to Steve Jackson  
*Telephone:* 07580 571839

**Holy Cross RC Church**  
Liverpool Road  
Patricroft  
Eccles  
M30 8QD

**Parish Safeguarding Rep:** Sharon Devlin  
*Email:* 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

**St Matthew's RC Church**  
Worsley Road  
Winton  
Eccles  
M30 8BL

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*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*