



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN PAUL II, ECCLES

Services held at: Holy Cross, Patricroft and St Mary's, Eccles

Parish Office: Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 8QD

2nd  
Sunday in  
Ordinary  
Time  
Daily  
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 up, 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?

In spite of all the troubles around us, 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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Tom, Doreen, John, Stephanie, John, John, Veronica, Judith, James, Sheila, Stephen, Ann, Christopher, David, Juliana, Wieslaw.

**Lately Dead:** Anne Unitt (Funeral at St Mary's on 30th January at 11.00am), Medardo Jesus B Devera, Felipa Gutoman Hiquiana, Pat Owen, Alina Lobo, Brian Christopher Byrne, Shirley Parkes (Funeral at Holy Cross on 16th January, 11.30am).

**Anniversaries:** Jack McNamara, Jean and John Callary, William and Kathleen, Maria Seabra (Birthday Anniversary), Ann Geeney, (John) Allan Banks (Saturday evening's Mass), Eileen Greenhalgh, Barbara Cooper, Mary Ferm, Frank Crompton.

**Remembrance:** Charles and Agnes Geeney, Marie Payne, Agnes McCarthy, Theresa Osborne.

**We also pray:** for Mary Ellen (Birthday), all the nations represented in our parish, for children suffering from poverty, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for migrants, for the people of the Holy Land and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for Myanmar and Sudan in their serious unrest, for Barbara Keeley, Rebecca Long-Bailey and all who serve us in Westminster, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for Fr John and the Syro-Malabar community, and for each of our schools. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout these troubled times, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers and for a number of special intentions.

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."

## ANNUAL CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Next Sunday, January 21st, we join at 3.00pm with all our fellow Christians from Eccles for the annual Service for Christian Unity. This year it will take place at St Paul's Church, Egerton Road Monton M30 9LR. Do, please, join us if you can to celebrate all that we share in common with our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations. St John Paul II Catholic Parish is usually well represented—please let this year be no exception and, if you have never attended one of these Services before, why not come and see?

## CHURCHES TOGETHER CHOIR

The joint choir will lead the singing at the Unity Service and we extend the invitation to members of all our churches to join the choir for this special occasion. We will rehearse here at Holy Cross **this Wednesday** at 7.00pm, and again at St Paul's next Sunday at 2pm, an hour before the Service. All we ask is that you attend at least one of these rehearsals. Thank you!

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

It is wonderful to see the way in which the vast majority of our First Holy Communion families have been growing in their engagement with the Mass. We recognise that for a small number, for various reasons which it is not for any of us to judge, have not been able to engage this year and they will be approached in the next few days to discuss deferral until next year. As was explained at the opening meeting this is not in any way to be seen as a "punishment"—the injustice to your child would be to have them receive the Sacrament without preparation, and then to go through life never understanding what it was all about.

We are now able to announce the choice of dates First Holy Communion families will be offered. These will be further discussed at meetings on either Wednesday 24th January, 6.00pm at Holy Cross Church or Thursday 25th January, 6.30pm at St Mary's Church. First Holy Communion Masses will be:

Saturday 15th June	6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday 16th June	11.15am at Holy Cross
Sunday 23rd June	11.15am at Holy Cross
Saturday 29th June	6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday 30th June	9.30am at St Mary's

The online forms on which to submit your preferences will be made available straight after the meetings, and allocations (which remain dependent upon continued engagement with the programme), will be given out soon afterwards.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD—"BIG LISTEN"

The first of our listening exercises will take place **this afternoon** (Sunday) at 3pm in Holy Cross Community Hall. Do, please, come along if you are able and help shape the future of the Diocese. If you are not able to attend either today or our next session on Sunday 28th, 3pm at St Mary's, please consider completing the questionnaire online at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/>

## PARISH WARM HUB/COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

This continues on Sundays, but will now be from the slightly later time of **10.15-11am** at Holy Cross Community Hall.

## MONTHLY DRAW RESULTS

January's winners are:

£ 100	215	Joseph C
£ 30	256	Ann G
£ 20	145	Veronica E

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Monthly collection in support of the work of our SVP. No retiring collection next week.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Last week's collection in church totalled £756.41. Thank you also to all those who donate to the parish by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices at the back of both Churches.

## USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**Saturday (Vigil Mass):** 6.00pm at Holy Cross  
**Sunday Morning:** 9.30am at St Mary's  
11.15am at Holy Cross  
*Children's Liturgy as announced at 11.15am Masses*  
*Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's*  
*and after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross on 1st and 3rd Sundays*  
**Sunday Evening:** 6.30pm at St Mary's  
**Weekdays:** See Calendar below  
**Holydays:** As announced beforehand

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are *usually* available during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays and Saturdays.  
*Please check the calendar below*

## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

by arrangement  
*At least 6 months' notice is required for weddings, and a time of preparation is also required before Baptism.*  
*Please refer to the website for further information*

# Calendar for This Week

<i>2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	Sat 13th Jan:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	<b>* Livestreamed</b>
	Sunday 14th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Jan) 3.00pm Synod "Big Listen" at Holy Cross Hall— <i>All welcome—see separate entry</i> 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's	
	Monday 15th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>	
	Tuesday 16th:	11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Shirley Parkes * <i>May she rest in peace</i>	
	Wednesday 17th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross * <i>Octave of prayer for Christian unity begins</i> 7.00pm Churches Together Choir rehearsal at Holy Cross— <i>see separate entry</i>	
	Thursday 18th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross * 7.00pm Churches Together in Eccles—meeting for all nominated Reps at Holy Cross	
	Friday 19th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * <i>(with Confessions available)</i> followed by 7.00pm Mass, at Holy Cross *	
	Saturday 20th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament <i>(with Confessions available)</i> followed by 12 noon Mass at St Mary's	
<i>3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	Sunday 21st:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) * 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr John) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 2.00pm Churches Together Choir rehearsal at St Paul's, Monton 3.00pm Annual Church Unity Service at St Paul's, Monton— <i>see separate entry</i> 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's	

Saturday's Vigil Mass will continue to be available on the [Sunday Mass](#) page of our website on Sunday and throughout the week, and on our [Facebook Page](#). It can also be viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

## DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

*Please use the Synod Prayer whenever you can, praying for each other and for the wider Diocesan community:*

Loving Father,  
be with us as we seek new ways  
of being your people in our Diocese.  
May each new day bring us  
closer to your son Jesus,  
as we follow his teaching and  
become disciples of love.  
As we continue our Synodal journey,  
draw us closer to each other.  
May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us.  
Open our hearts, as we listen to each other  
and reach out in love to your people.  
Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. **Amen.**

## CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of St Stephen's parish, Droylsden, for Fr Bernard Wilson, their parish priest, and for Fr Callistus Orjika. We pray for their parish primary school.

## A HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

The "default" position for kneelers in both churches is **DOWN**. If you need to raise them to move into or out of the bench, please ensure it is then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall.

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. First Communion and other Sacramental Programme children will be asked to go to the grown-up who brought them, so that you can see them safely back. Please help us keep your children safe at all times. Thank you!

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS *(Please note that email addresses below can NOT be clicked as links)*

**Parish Priest:** Fr Martin A Collins GTCL  
**Telephone:** 0161 789 4424  
**Mobile:** 07502 633383  
**Email:** martin.collins@dioceseofsalford.org.uk  
or via contact form on the parish website.

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Marie Twemlow  
**Telephone:** 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-4pm)  
**Sec. Email:** secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
**Office Email:** office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [@ourparishcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)

**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

**Parish Halls Hire:** Enquiries to Steve Jackson, Hall Manager  
**Telephone:** 07580 571839—*please leave a voicemail*  
**Email:** hall@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

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

**St Mary's RC Church**  
Oxford Street  
Eccles  
M30 0LU

**Parish Safeguarding Reps:** Marie Twemlow/Anna Raynor/Ged Dale  
**Email:** safeguarding@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Schools:**  
Holy Cross and All Saints: 0161 789 4386  
St Gilbert's: 0161 789 5035  
St Mary's: 0161 789 4532  
St Patrick's High School: 0161 921 2300

SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037  
[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*