

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

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 1

THE EPIPHANY

EpiphanY – Revealing. For some Christian traditions, this is their Christmas, and not without good reason – today's feast is the first declaration that Jesus was born for all the world and not just for the sons of Israel.

Melchior, Balthazar and Caspar (or Gaspar) are the names which have been ascribed to today's visitors since the 6th century – Melchior the king of Arabia, the eldest, gave Christ the gift of Gold to recognise him as a king. Balthazar, king of Ethiopia, gave frankincense to recognise him as High Priest or, indeed, as God himself. Caspar, the youngest of the three and king of Tarsus, brought myrrh – either as an ointment for Jesus's burial recognising the one who would die for the world, or as a medical ingredient to identify him as the great healer of souls.

Are the names real? We do not know, they are not from any biblical account. Were they kings? Again, the Bible merely identifies wise men from the east. Were

there three of them? Well, there were three gifts, but that is as far as the Bible goes.

So, if everything is so vague, does any of this really matter at all? Absolutely, yes it does. The visitors are great symbols of the world outside. They join Mary and Joseph, faithful children of Israel. They follow the shepherds – perhaps not so faithful as their minding of the sheep kept them from honouring Sabbath as they should, but nonetheless Jews following the tradition of their ancestors in tending livestock. But these are different – they are outsiders, foreigners – they are you and me. And Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Holy Family, welcome them just the same. Christ is, indeed, born to save us too, and all the world.

Now, let us play our part – to be a people of welcome to all God's children, and to open our hearts and let the Christ-child be born in us in this great Christmas season. May he form us anew, and make us truly Christian both in name and in the manner of our lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Joanne, Aidan, Desmond, Eamon, Maureen, John, Stefa, Cecelia, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Audrey, Annie, Jackie, Ann, Malcolm, Harvey, Claire, Louise and baby Maisy, Lewis (12 yrs. old), Caitlin (age 11), Loren (age 17), Marie, Paddy, John, Megan, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Billy, Dennis, Gerald, May, Louise, Lily, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Joseph, Martin, Ishrat, Elaine, Jayne and Christian, Mavis, Antony, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin, Pat.

Lately Dead: Patrick O'Callaghan, Irene McLaughlin, Thomas William Doyle, John Harkin, Wilma d'Sousa, Monty Brown, Patrocino Gigante, Tony Shepherd, Joyce Parker, Desmond O'Reilly.

Anniversaries: Audrey Crompton, Shirley Mary Beckitt, Brian Slater.

Remembrance: Tess and John Kay, Baby Gabriel Preston, Carrie Tucker, Vernon Wilde, Jimmy and John Fahy, Eileen and Harry Banks, Winifred and Bill Hampton, Sarah and Patrick McDermott, Ethel and Joseph Francis, the deceased members of the Pelosi, Lambert, Yellop, Banks, McDermott, Fahy, McDonnell, Kennedy and Slater families.

We also pray for: Mr Fahy, in thanksgiving, for world peace, for Bishop John and the restructuring of our diocese, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, and for a number of special intentions.



READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Ken, Daniel

9.00am: Please log in or see list in church

10.30am: Sheila, Paul

OFFERTORY

Collection: 31st December/1st January:

See printed version. Thank you

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection

Next week: SPUC 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)
Tea and coffee are served after both morning Masses
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: 11.00am-11.50am at St Matthew's
and 6.00pm-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 9th January)*

Monday: 9.00am Morning Prayer at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**
Tuesday: 9.00am Morning Prayer at **St Matthew's** followed by **9.15am Mass**
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**
10.00am Pastoral Committee Meeting at Holy Cross
7.00pm Catechists' Meeting at Holy Cross
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

FIRST COMMUNION DATES 2017

Our parish First Communion Masses are now planned as follows:

Saturday 17th June
6.30pm Mass
at **Holy Cross**

Sunday 18th June
9.00am Mass
at **St Matthew's**

Sunday 25th June
10.30am Mass
at **Holy Cross**

There will also be an additional, **afternoon Mass** on **Sunday 25th June**, at **Holy Cross**, at a time still to be determined.

Following our meeting of catechists this coming Thursday we will, next weekend, announce further dates for **First Reconciliation** (during Lent) and a small number of meetings for parents and children to cover those aspects of preparation which cannot be made in the context of Sunday Mass. **Thank you** for your continued support.

CHURCH UNITY SERVICE

This year, the annual Unity Service for all the church families that make up Churches Together in Eccles will take place at:

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
on
Sunday 22nd January
at
3.00pm.

We are privileged that **Bishop John Arnold** has kindly agreed to come and give the address. Whilst we expect members of other churches to join us on the day, we would of course hope that our own parish will be well represented.

The United Choir for this service will rehearse at Holy Cross on Monday 9th and Tuesday 17th January at 7.30pm, with an additional rehearsal on the day at 2.00pm. We would ask that volunteers attend at least one evening rehearsal plus the one on the day. **Thank you!**

THE UNIVERSE NEWSPAPER

The Universe is a Catholic publication which keeps its readers informed about the church and its life in the world and in our own country. As a promotion, there will be a number of free copies available for four weeks, starting next weekend. During this time, we will seek orders from any who are interested in receiving a weekly copy after the promotion has ended. We encourage you to take a look, and perhaps share it with your friends.

200 CLUB DRAW – Dec 2016

See printed version

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: Mr Paul Boardman
Telephone: 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Wed, 10am-4pm)
Email: secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
or via contact form on the website.

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: All enquiries to Mrs Anne Benyon
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

SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey