

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 A

Morning Prayer Week 2

A Pastoral Letter for the Parish of Holy Cross, St Matthew and St Gilbert, Eccles

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am very grateful to all those who have helped me throughout this last year to consider the challenges to our Diocese and plan for our future. Thousands of people, priests, religious and members of parish communities throughout the Diocese have responded with comments and suggestions. In interpreting the "signs of the times", Pope Francis urges us to consider that commission given to us by Jesus Himself. We are "to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News". Pope Francis asks us to become "missionary disciples" in "missionary parishes". To enable us to do this in the changed and changing circumstances of the present time, there is need to re-draw parish boundaries and choose the best distribution of churches and priests for ministry to our Catholic community and for the development of our mission to the wider community.

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: Jim McHugh, D. J. Wilson, Desmond O'Reilly, Patrick O'Callaghan, Irene McLaughlin, Thomas William Doyle, John Harkin.

Anniversaries: Patrick Ward, Agnes McCarthy, Michael Smith, V. S. Joseph, Audrey Crompton, Shirley Mary Beckett.

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: 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.

I have written at some length about the purpose and rationale of the consultation and how it has progressed. That document can be found in printed form at the back of churches and on the Diocesan website, together with a description of the proposed arrangements for parishes throughout the Diocese. In just a small number of cases, it has not yet been possible to determine the best alignment for a particular parish and so it is necessary and just that these communities have a little more time to discuss their situation.

In the case of this parish of **Holy Cross, St Matthew and St Gilbert, Eccles**, it is proposed that it amalgamates with the parish of Saint Mary, Eccles to form one new parish. It is also proposed that we close St Matthew's church.

The implementation of these proposals will happen in stages, appropriate to each situation, over the coming months and years.

Whatever your feelings may be (agreement, disappointment, relief or sadness) I would ask you to accept the decisions I have made about how our parishes might best be organised and engage in the growth and development of the Church in this Diocese, where each one of us is an ambassador for Christ and a missionary disciple. Let us all use the challenges of this present time to build a Church for future generations.

"Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

With my prayers and good wishes,

+ John Arnold

Bishop of Salford

A copy of the plan for the whole of St John's deanery, with an outline plan for the diocese, can be picked up at the back of church after Mass. The priests will be meeting up with the bishop later this month to discuss how this plan will be implemented. Please keep us all in your prayers as we face this challenging but hope-filled time ahead.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Lucy-Jo, Jessica

9.00am: Please log in or see list in church

10.30am: Julius, Anne

OFFERTORY

Collection: 7th/8th January: See printed version
Thank you

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SPUC White Flower Appeal

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

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| 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: 11.00am-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 16th January)*

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| 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 7.30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal for next week's Church Unity Service |
| 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: | 12.30pm Funeral Mass at St Matthew's for the late Desmond O'Reilly. <i>May he rest in peace</i> 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 |

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 NEXT 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 again at Holy Cross this Tuesday (17th January) at 7.30pm, with an additional rehearsal **on the day at 2.00pm**. We would ask that volunteers will have attended 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 are a number of free copies available for the next four weeks. 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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME KEY DATES

1. MEETING FOR PARENTS

Wednesday 25th January, 7.00pm at Holy Cross
(Updates and allocation of First Communion places)

2. BAPTISMS (for those children yet to be Baptised)
Sunday 12th February, 10.30am Mass at Holy Cross

3. MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN
Wednesday 8th March, 7.00pm at Holy Cross
(Preparing for First Reconciliation)

4. FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICES
Either: **Tuesday 14th March, 7.00pm at Holy Cross**
or: **Wednesday 22nd March, 7.00pm at Holy Cross**

5. MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN
Wednesday 24th May, 7.00pm at Holy Cross
(Preparing for First Holy Communion)

6. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES
Either: **Saturday 17th June, 6.30pm Mass at Holy Cross**
or: **Sunday 18th June, 9.00am Mass at St Matthew's**
or: **Sunday 25th June, 10.30am Mass at Holy Cross**
or: **Sunday 25th June, 2.00pm Mass at Holy Cross**

7. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES
Saturday/Sunday, 15th/16th July at all Masses

Please collect a form from one of the catechists at the end of Mass and return it at or before the meeting on 25th January. (Your choices can also be made online).

Please try to let us know in advance if you are unable to attend any meeting. **Thank you.**

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

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

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

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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey