



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

4th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 4

Blessed are the poor in Spirit...

Today we are presented with the Beatitudes—that familiar code for “happiness” or “blessedness (depending upon which aspect of the Greek word “Makarios” we hear in our translation). But what if we strip away the familiarity, and imagine the context in which these words were first spoken; what if we compare the pressures and stresses of those first hearers with our own?

The crowds Jesus addressed longed for freedom and peace of mind. They lived their lives under occupation by the Romans, forced to accept an authority they did not recognise or respect. The successful amongst them—their religious leaders and teachers—grew powerful through their wealth and learning, and at times by their willingness to use that learning to find loopholes for themselves at the expense of the poor. Happiness—blessedness—was to be found in self-centred power and authority. It seemed plain for everyone to see, but was it true?

Today, the media bombards us with so similar a message. True, if we are selective about which reports we allow to influence us, or if we look those aspects of our world which never find their way into the news, we can find countless examples of caring and altruism around us; but our celebrity culture always reinforces the popular message, that to be truly happy we must seek power, wealth, fame and influence. Only then can we control our destiny. This appears plain to see as well, but again, is it true?

Jesus' message, taken largely from the prophets of old but presented in a new way, turned the established impression on its head. He does not give new commands, but new blessings—which can only begin in humility and powerlessness, in honesty and integrity. The final “blessings” look towards the suffering which will come to Jesus himself, and to his followers, in time to come—yet paradoxically, they still really are blessings in themselves.

Can we, with God's help, find that new mind-set and discover gifts of blessedness, and peace, through his Grace? For these are the only treasures which will truly last, and will bring a happiness that is real.

CAFOD—THE BIG LENT WALK!

Walk 200km in 40 days! See poster at the back of church for details. Many kilometres have already been already pledged so far—could you add another 200 to the tally? During Lent, we'll be thinking about sponsorship, to help the fight against global poverty.

PRAYER REQUESTS—See separate notice

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Juliana, Michael, Terry, Alistair, Elaine, Mary, Anne, Theresa, Kevin, Sheila, Paddy, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Gareth Blount (age 22), Pat Cosgrave, Mary Conroy, Emily Chesterton, Les Dore, Alan Banks, Sally Corps, Carole Byrne, Jane Heavey, Ann Maloney, Kathleen Knowles, Teresa Daly, Frank Crompton, Agnes Kightly.

Anniversaries: Kath Kitson, John Sargent, Bill Trace, Jean and John Callery, Ann Geaney, Eileen Greenhalgh, Kathleen Brehony, Agnes McCarthy, William and Lilian Hindley, Tom Roddy, Winifred Moreby, Eileen Greenhalgh.

Remembrance: James and Maureen Yellop, Michael and Mary Lambert, Patrick McLernon, John Ward, Baby Gabriel Preston.

We also pray: for migrants, for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the war there, 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.

CARITAS SUNDAY

Today we take the opportunity to reflect on the social action of our parish, and to look at new ways of serving the needs of our community. Clair, our caritas Rep, will be speaking at all Masses today.

NEW YEAR: NEW START

If you are seeking to enrich your spiritual life whilst carrying out your daily commitments, the Associates of the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph would like to welcome you. In the company of others and in the spirit of St Francis of Assisi we seek to deepen our love for God and for the world. For more information and contact details, please take a leaflet from the back of Church.

WARM SPACES

Not just for those who cannot afford to heat their homes, but for those too who feel lonely and isolated because of the cold weather, warm spaces are providing a place to meet up, get a drink and a bite to eat. **We are seeking to set up a warm space on Sunday mornings at Holy Cross**, and this morning over tea and coffee after Mass (for everyone!) there will be some discussion on the plan and some seeking of volunteers. Do, please, come along after Mass today! (There will also be refreshments after Mass next week at Holy Cross, with the monthly prize draw, and every week at St Mary's).

SACRAMENTS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

We invite parents of any children between the ages of 7 and 13 (incl), who are not yet baptised but would like to prepare for the Sacraments, to come along to Holy Cross **this Thursday evening** at 7.00pm.

YEAR 7 RETREAT

Following on from the success of the “NET Ministries” retreat for Year 7 pupils (from any school) last year, this is planned once more for **Saturday 11th February**, and will be hosted again by St Patrick's High School. Application forms are available from our Catholic High Schools and also from the parish – please speak to Fr Martin if you require a form from the office. Forms should be returned to Sister Anna (our deanery Confirmation and Youth Coordinator) ideally by Monday (30th January). Year 7s—you'll have a great time!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please keep us informed of people who need our prayers, and of any whose names might have been removed from the list prematurely.

PARISH MISSION

From Saturday 25th February until Friday 3rd March we will be holding a Parish Mission. Fr Kieran from the Redemptorists will be speaking at all Masses soon to pave the way for what promises to be a wonderful opportunity for spiritual renewal and enrichment. Please make a note in your diary, and spread the word amongst those who may not so regularly join us for Mass. It is for the whole community, and all three of our primary schools will be involved.

St MATTHEW'S

Four years have now elapsed since the closure of St Matthew's Church and the further amalgamation of our parishes to form this new parish of St John Paul II. The diocese is constantly reviewing the buildings and land that its people must maintain and, recently, it has become increasingly apparent that both church and presbytery at St Matthew's are deteriorating in a manner beyond that which either we, (the parish), or those who use the premises, can reasonably pay to put right. The decision has therefore been taken, painful though it will certainly be both to our tenants and to the members of the former St Matthew's parish, to terminate the tenancies and close down the site permanently. Notice has therefore been issued (in accordance with the tenancy agreements) and whilst consideration will, of course, be given to ways of minimising the pain and stress of those most directly involved, the closure process is now underway. Ultimately the land will be sold and the proceeds of the sale will come back to the parish. Please pray for all those involved or affected in any way.

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 Liturgies are still currently suspended
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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday 28th Jan: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr John) *
Sunday 29th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
*** Livestreamed**

Monday 30th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
Tuesday 31st: 9.45am Rosary for Ukraine before Mass at Holy Cross
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

Presentation of the Lord Wednesday 1st Feb: 9.45am Rosary for Ukraine before Mass at Holy Cross
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

Thursday 2nd: 9.45am Rosary for Ukraine before Mass at Holy Cross
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
2.00pm Pro-life Rosary St Gilbert's Presbytery—all welcome
7.00pm Parents' meeting at Holy Cross for older children seeking Sacraments

Friday 3rd: 12.15pm Funeral Mass at St Mary's for Carol Byrne. *May she rest in peace*
6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (with Confessions available)
followed by 7.00pm Mass, at Holy Cross *

Saturday 4th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with Confessions available)
followed by 12 noon Mass at St Mary's
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 5th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Mass at St Mary's (with Fr John)

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](#).

St KILLIAN'S CANDLES

From Wednesday this week we will be trialling a new form of votive candles at Holy Cross Church, with a view to introducing them at both churches if the trial is successful. It is much safer than conventional votive candles, and is an environmentally friendly system in which there is no waste and everything is recycled. It will mean that the suggested donation will have to increase to 50p, but this is only a suggested donation and no-one should feel unable to light a candle simply because they do not have the funds.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £784.73. Thank you also to all those who donate by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless device at the back of Holy Cross Church. (Contactless facilities will very soon be introduced at St Mary's as well, along with a change of system at Holy Cross to one which may be simpler to use. Our apologies that this is taking longer than we had hoped).

CYCLE of PRAYER



Throughout the diocese we pray

on this Caritas Sunday for the work of Caritas Diocese of Salford which seeks to support the needy and vulnerable across our Diocese. May our prayers and support help them express the Beatitudes in their service of others.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- St Patrick's Day Social evening—Saturday 18th March at Holy Cross Community Hall. "Pontiac" will be providing the music, and tickets (at £12, including hot supper) will be on sale soon.
- Coronation Day—May 6th—details of our parish celebration will be announced soon.

FUNDRAISER

We will be continuing the "50:50" for the next three weeks. Tickets are £1 and will be on sale after all Masses. The winning ticket will be drawn on February 12th.

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
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
Telephone: 07580 571839
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

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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey