

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 2

IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN CURE ME

Imagine the leper in today's Gospel story. The people of his day presumed that illness was in some way "earned" through misdeeds, just as they believed prosperity was the reward for goodness. Thus, our friend finds himself an outcast, forced to live outside of the community, rejected both by religious leaders and by the person on the street alike. He was held to be "unclean" and people would not come near him for fear of being contaminated - if they were to touch him even by accident, they too would be outcast and unclean. He is used to rejection, and doubtless to ridicule and insult too.

Along comes another religious leader. Will he be any different from the rest? Should our friend hide himself

away, or has he been hardened now, by life's cruelty, to make the first strike? Will he choose to taunt Jesus's sincerity, before Jesus has the chance to say anything? He speaks up: "If you want too, you can cure me!" What is his tone of voice? After all, the question is loaded. No-one has wanted to know before. Does he really expect Jesus to be any different? And then, how does Jesus respond? Our "comfortable" modern translations have him "feeling sorry for him" or "moved with pity" (though the New English Version translates "warm indignation" instead). But there are ancient manuscripts which read "moved with anger." (St Mark is always ready to portray the most human aspects of Jesus's manner). If this were a taunt from the leper, how would you have responded?

Now consider the implications for Jesus. He will tell the man to speak to no-one of who has brought about his cure - but, with his understanding as God, he knows he will ignore him and talk freely. The thanks Jesus will get will amount to no less than their changing places. The man will go free, and Jesus will become the outcast for having touched him. Wouldn't it be easier to answer an ungracious taunt with a well-deserved refusal, like surely so many had responded before?

But, faced with all the same emotional reactions we would bring to such a situation, Jesus refuses to be swayed from his characteristic goodness and compassion. Despite knowing all the consequences, Jesus is different from the rest. "Be cured!" he replies.

Being a Christian is not easy - but Christ has been there first. Every situation that makes us fall, Jesus has experienced it before us and succeeded in doing good. Let us pray for his help, as we seek to support the hard-hearted and ungrateful. After all, like the suffering they face, their attitude is probably not their fault. A habit of being rejected leads many to strike out first. But they are still God's children. Just like us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Jackie, 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, 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, Vanessa, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin and a very sick person

Lately Dead: May McKnight, Adele Bell, Margaret Ray, Fr Frank Thompson MHM, Maureen Rea, Irwin Platts, Michael Neilan, Tilla Alber, Keith Heard, Ann Geeney, Bernadette Constable, Susan Barry.

Anniversaries: Annie O'Donnell, Harry Banks, Jim Purcell, Ann and Johnny Delaney, Frederick and Hilda Mary Blohm, Brian Yates, Patrick McElhinney, May Fagan, Roy Hall, Mary Richardson, Josie and Gerard Delaney, Edward Davenport, Thomas Stanley Dickinson, Cecelia Jackson, Kathleen Brehony, Agnes McCarthy.

Remembrance: Maurice Fagan, Paul Barnes, Ethel and Joseph Francis.

We also pray: for world peace, for the people of Southern Cameroon, 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: Lucy-Jo, Moya
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Patricia, Anastazia

OFFERTORY

Collections: 3rd/4th February: See print version
Caritas (from last week): See print version
St Barnabas Society: total next week

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection
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

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: 11.00-11.50am 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 12th February)

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	11.15am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Anne Geeny. <i>May she rest in peace</i>
Ash Wednesday:	10.00am Morning Mass at Holy Cross with both our primary schools in attendance 7.00pm Evening Mass at St Matthew's
Thursday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass
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

YOUTH LAUNCH!

Calling all 11-17 year olds! Do you want to make an IMPACT in our parish and be part of an international youth movement? We'll be launching our Impact Group at YCW's national headquarters during the week of 19th February. Let Rachel know which evening is best for you.

LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK

On Wednesday this week we celebrate the start of Lent, and ashes will be distributed at all Masses. At our morning Mass, 10.00am at Holy Cross, we will welcome both of our primary schools, and the children will take the lead in many aspects of this Mass. There will also be an evening Mass at St Matthew's at 7.00pm. Do, please, come along and mark the start of this great season of preparation and renewal. What will your resolutions be this year?

PRAYING WITH THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A series of talks and prayer workshops is organised at St Charles' Church, Swinton, on Saturdays during Lent from 12 noon—2.30pm, exploring the many themes of life underlying the Stations of the Cross. All welcome—please bring a packed lunch. See poster at the back of church, and pick up a leaflet.

PARISH ADVENT CHALLENGE

With our apologies for the delay (which has been caused by the parish office being kept busy with the annual financial returns), the final result of our Advent World Gifts challenge should be published next week—yes, sorry, still next week. Thank you for all your support—and a Lent challenge will follow!

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

The following notice appeared last weekend in every parish newsletter across the diocese, and we repeat it for any who were not present:

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. There is no place in the Church, or indeed society, for abuse, which can affect people for their entire lives.

We recognise that with increased reporting and the ongoing national inquiry it has raised awareness of abuse and this may have led to individuals to reflect on their own experiences.

The Diocese of Salford encourages all those who have any concerns of abuse past or present by any person connected to the Diocese to report such abuse to either Dawn Lundergan, Safeguarding Co-Ordinator or Cath Taylor Safeguarding Officer via the contact details below;

Phone: 0161 817 2206.

E-Mail: dawn.lundergan@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or catherine.taylor@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

ROME PILGRIMAGE 19th-26th FEBRUARY

The coach will leave Ss Peter and Paul's church for Manchester Airport T3 at 3.15am prompt. Please be at the church no later than 3.00am. (The flight leaves at 6.00am). Any queries, please contact Veronica.

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
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)
<i>Email:</i>	secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<i>Office Email:</i>	office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Parish Website:	www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Parish Sister:	Sr Jenny (Franciscan Missionary of St Joseph)
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm) 0161 707 9537 all other times
<i>Email:</i>	srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Community Hall:	Enquiries to Steve Jackson
<i>Telephone:</i>	07580 571839

Holy Cross RC Church	St Matthew's RC Church
Liverpool Road	Worsley Road
Patricroft	Winton
Eccles	Eccles
M30 8QD	M30 8BL
Parish Safeguarding Reps:	Katrina Foster/Tara Higgins
	<i>Email:</i> safeguarding@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