



CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN PAUL II, ECCLES

Services usually held at: Holy Cross, Patricroft and St Mary's, Eccles
Parish Office: Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 8QD

6th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 2

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

In today's Gospel, St Luke presents us with four Beatitudes and four Woes. They represent the opposite of human thinking—woes are addressed to the rich, those with plenty to eat, who laugh and are honoured, whilst the "blessed" comprise the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful and those who are hated, rejected or persecuted. What does it all mean? Is it simply a way of making the marginalized feel better, or does the message run deeper?

We must take real care when trying to interpret Jesus' preference for the poor. We must not let ourselves accept the inevitability of poverty and marginalisation and feel "these people are blessed, why should we try to change it?" As Helder Camera once said: "Saints may be found in slums, but we cannot retain slums in order to make them the breeding ground of saints." Instead of looking at poverty or riches in the worldly sense around us, we will find a truer meaning if we look to the life of Our Lord.

Jesus, as a charismatic leader, found himself invited to great banquets, with some influential friends who could have made life very comfortable for him. He had the choice of riches or poverty but, whilst embracing the worldly poor, he did not choose a life of destitution for himself or for his followers. Instead, he chose a way of service in God's Name. And that service brought to him the pov-

erty of standing alone against crowds, the hunger for righteousness, the ridicule of those too afraid or too selfish to understand his message, and the hatred of those who understood just enough to feel threatened—and who would then call for his death.

These four Beatitudes were not the *choice* of Jesus—they were the inevitable consequence of a life dedicated to service and the pursuit of justice for everyone. Yet, in spite of these painful consequences, God's Love led him to desire nothing else.

On this Racial Justice Sunday, we are called to stand up for the dignity of all peoples, from every race and every culture. Claiming that we are created in the image and likeness of God means nothing unless we also recognise the sheer diversity of that image. Look at our display at the back of church to see images of the Holy Family from around the world, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph belonging equally to every nation and culture. Let us recognise in these the sheer beauty of diversity in our church and, indeed, in our own parish.

May we never be content with the "woes" of a narrow-minded sense of comfort, but take up in earnest the beatitudes of God's call to serve, and embrace those blessings that hurt as we stand up for real justice, equality and right for each and every one of God's people. Then let us be confident that we will also receive the love of God that will sustain us in our quest—the love that lasts forever.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Josette, Angela, Jack, Bridie, Maureen, Peggy, Bridget, Peter, Rifa, Barbara, baby Rosa Maria, Edna, Linda, Fr Peter CSSP, Ann-Marie, Liz, Stephen, Elizabeth, Irene, Shane, Sidney, Margaret, Carole, Marjorie, Geoff, Anne, Agnes, Alan, Margaret, Peter, Ann, Paul, Allan, Keith, Gwyneth, Karen, Kenneth, Patrick, Kathleen, Pat, Doreen, Helen, Bridget, Sara, Tara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Sarah, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick, David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Ann, Patrick, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Frances, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, John, Joan, Paul, Peter, Maureen, Pat, Patrick, David, Sister Maureen, Yvonne, Terry, Betty, Kathleen, Colette, Stanley, Win, Catherine, James, Alan, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Fr Connelly, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Elaine, Ellen, Glenes, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Sheila, Martin, Joanne, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, John, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, May, Louise, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Nicola, Don, Nijole, Roger Bryan, Ken, Stephen, Mildred.

Lately Dead: Arthur Farrington, Ujitha Silva, Graham Compton, Tom Ward, Ron Sparrow, Vivienne Morrissey, Stephen John Comerford, Graham Compton, Don Healde, Joan Chinnery, Anne Dale, Irene Maree, Charles Clark, John Rabbitt.

Anniversaries: John Sargent, Esther and Michael Roddy, baby Michael Roddy, Kath Kitson, Maura McLernon, Agnes McCarthy, May Fagan, Sheila Tighe, Jean & John Callery, Arthur Baum, Teresa Arden, Maria Teresa Velasquez, Winifred Moreby, Ann Geeney, Kathleen Brehony.

Remembrance: Charles and Agnes Geeney, Marie Payne.

We also pray: for Dave and Olive, celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Maria, for migrants, for the people of Afghanistan, for peace in Ukraine and all around the world, and for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for the Syro-Malabar community, for each of our schools, and for our Sacramental Programme families. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout the Covid-19 crisis and for all those suffering from the disease, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers and for a number of special intentions.

THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD

Pope Francis has asked us, the people of St John Paul II parish, to help him. Not just us, of course, but every parish in every diocese across the world. He wants us to spend some time listening to each other in our parishes, and to those outside our churches, whether it's those who have drifted away from Mass or have been hurt by the Church, and to those on the margins of society. He wants us, individually and together with our families and friends, to ask ourselves what the Holy Spirit wants our Church to be in this Third Millennium.

Why us? Our Catholic Faith teaches us that the Holy Spirit speaks through all the members of the Church, lay-people, religious, deacons and priests, bishops and the Pope. Each of us have something to say and he wants to listen. That's why he recently said "In the one People of God let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit."

Pope Francis seeks a Church where all can feel at home and participate. He wants us to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine in order to stop and listen, firstly to the Spirit in adoration and prayer, and then to our brothers and sisters, their hopes, the crises of faith around the world, the need for renewed pastoral life. And Pope Francis urges us not to be distant but to become a Church of closeness by her very presence, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the soothing touch of God.

At this time he is asking us to reflect on a few questions and respond to them, as a group or individually. The questions are available at: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod. Please respond to those questions that engage you the most. Talk about them with your family and friends. Encourage them to help shape your response. Do it prayerfully. Remember; it's not about 'this is what I want' but rather 'this is what I feel the Holy Spirit is saying to me about.....' And begin by saying simply 'Come, Holy Spirit.' Also consider asking a friend or family member to also respond, we are looking for a wide range of voices to help shape our diocesan response.

Responses can be submitted online (www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/) or by post. You can also find a wealth of resources here to help you think on the questions. Unfortunately there isn't much time because the deadline is March 15th. This will give us a chance to prepare a summary of the responses which will then find its way to Rome. That summary and a larger reflection on the responses will also be available for the people of our Diocese.

So, Pope Francis needs us, each and everyone of us, priests and people, women and men, young and not so young, church-goers and non-church-goers, and many others besides to gather our thoughts and share them with him. Let's all of us help Pope Francis to fulfil his ministry as our Holy Father.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES from NEXT WEEK

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning: 9.30am at Holy Cross
11.15am at Holy Cross

*Children's Liturgies are currently suspended
Refreshments after Masses are also currently suspended*

Weekdays: See Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions currently available, 11.10-11.45am on Saturdays
in the **Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross** (not the Confessional).
Please be guided by the stewards

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 – Church Opening in Red

*For more on our present
Coronavirus response,
please see our website at:
www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk/coronavirus*

Saturday 12th Feb: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)
Sunday 13th: 9.30am Mass at Holy Cross
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
Monday 14th: Sorry, no Mass on Mondays
Tuesday 15th Feb: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross with Fr John (Not livestreamed on this occasion)
Wednesday 16th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)
Thursday 17th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)
7.00pm Hope in the Future Committee Meeting in person or by Zoom
Friday 18th: 7.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed) following a Holy Hour from 6.00pm
Saturday 19th: 12 noon Mass at Holy Cross with Fr Jan Klaver (Not Livestreamed today, sorry)
There will be no Holy Hour today, as the half-day of Recollection is taking place at St Mary's
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)

*All Services at St Mary's are
suspended during the
renovation works*

This 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 viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

PARISH HALF-DAY OF RECOLLECTION

...this coming Saturday (19th February), from 9.30am to 1.00pm, with [David Wells](#). The theme: "After the virus: My faith, my life, my neighbour"—considering why "normal" might not be where we go next! Join us for a light-hearted and reflective look at the lessons of the last two years. Admission £7.00. **Last call to book your place** by phoning the parish office!

RED MISSION BOXES

Boxes that were brought in to be emptied, counted and sent off, are now ready to be collected again from the back of church.

CARITAS APPEAL

Following the recent appeal, donations can still be made by leaving marked envelopes in the collection basket.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Baptisms: Please pray for Angel, Theodore and Lettie, who were Baptised this week.

First Communion Programme—Great to see you at Mass! Please spread the word that, in line with our usual policy and to ensure the best understanding of the Sacrament for the children, weekly attendance at Mass in person is now expected apart from exceptional circumstances (sickness, special vulnerability or self-isolation etc).

Special congratulations to Kenneth, who received Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion for the first time at our 11.15am Mass last Sunday, following thorough preparation in Nigeria. We warmly welcome him and his family into our parish community.

Presentation of certificates. This will continue to be followed up over the next few weeks.

CYCLE OF PRAYER



This week we pray, throughout the diocese, for the people of the parish of St Dunstan and St John Vianney, Moston and for Fr Martin Saunders, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school and for St. Matthew's High School. May they live out the Beatitudes in all that they do.

HOPE IN THE FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

...on Thursday at 7pm. Whilst mainly in person at Holy Cross, a Zoom link will be sent for any committee members who are unable to attend.

St PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

We've not celebrated St Patrick's Day together as a parish for a while now—so make a note in your diary: Charity St Patrick's Concert at Holy Cross Community Hall on Friday 18th March, 7.30-10pm with special guest Jimmy Cricket! Watch this space for full details including the pricing of tickets, which will go on sale next week following discussion at the Hope in the Future meeting this week.

APPEAL FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Please speak to Fr Martin or to Jesamine for information. Thank you. Also we will soon be welcoming more of our existing servers to the Guild of St Stephen, and thank them for their work and commitment.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £536.68, plus £2,046.00 received by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless device at the back of church during the month of January. 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
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: Tara Higgins/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