



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

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 understanding 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 poverty 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 then called 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. But 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 people, from every race and every culture. Especially, we must call to mind the plight of the migrant communities and asylum seekers, and the inhuman suffering of the vulnerable who find themselves drawn into labour exploitation and human trafficking. The scandals of the modern age cannot simply be dismissed as "someone else's responsibility"—we must stand and be counted; however unpopular it might make us at times.

And so, we ask ourselves: are we content with the "woes" of a narrow-minded sense of comfort, or are we ready to take up in earnest

the beatitudes of God's call to serve—to accept the challenge of the missionary disciple, and to embrace those blessings that hurt as we stand up for righteousness and justice? For if we are, we can be confident that we will also receive the love of God that will sustain us in our quest—the love that will last forever.

JUBILEE YEAR—PILGRIM'S PASSPORT

Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up our family-friendly guide to Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Salford. With fast facts, thought-provoking questions, and different activities, our Pilgrim's Passport is the ideal companion to help families pray and journey together this Jubilee Year. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated Churches to begin.

JUBILEE YEAR—24 HOURS WITH THE LORD

As part of our parish response to the Jubilee Year, we will be holding a special prayer time—"24 Hours with the Lord"—at Holy Cross Church, beginning with the regular **Holy Hour at 6pm on Friday 28th March** and concluding with the **6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 29th March**. The 24 hours through the night and day will be punctuated with prayer activities (such as Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy, Spiritual Music etc) and, apart from the Mass times (with the Saturday 12 noon Mass transferring from St Mary's to Holy Cross on this occasion), the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed throughout with periods of silence. The schools will also be involved during the Saturday afternoon. To enable all this to happen, **we are seeking volunteers who would commit to being in the church at prayer for 1-hour stretches** from 8pm on the Friday to 11am on the Saturday, and from 1pm—5pm before we conclude with the evening Mass. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church if you are ready to take part!



JUBILEE PRAYER

Please use the Jubilee Prayer whenever you can:

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us in
your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into
tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a
new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet.
Please help us to keep them safe at all times. Thank you!

A HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

The "default" position for kneelers in both churches is **DOWN**. If you need to raise them to move into or out of the bench, please ensure they are then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall. **If you need help to adjust a kneeler, please speak to one of the stewards who will be happy to assist you.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Lee, Edna, Eileen, Peter, Robert, Ursula, Jim, Aaron (age 14), Mark, Mary, Alan, Mina, Stephen, Charlie (age 10), Margaret, Eileen, Elaine, Julie, John, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Patrick Rice, Winifred Chirnside, Mike Thorpe, Thomas Dempsey, Kevin McElhill, John Twemlow, Frances Simpson.

Anniversaries: Agnes Geeney, Sean Fanning, George Devlin (Birthday Anniv), Maura McLernon, Mary Ferm, Bill Trace, Esther Roddy, Eileen Patricia Jackson (Birthday Anniv), Dermot, Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, Kathleen Ward, Margaret Lucy Scholes, Sunimal and Ujitha, Ann Geeney, Kathleen Brehony, Kath Kitson.

Remembrance: Charles and Agnes Geeney, Marie Payne, John and Monica Potter.

We also pray for: Jessie (anniversary of reception into the Catholic Church), Bernard P, Patricia (Birthday wishes), the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars and fragile peace there, for other countries suffering unrest, for migrants and refugees, for children suffering from poverty, for the victims of modern slavery, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for Michael Wheeler, 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 Stanto 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.

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 Liturgy at most 11.15am Masses
Refreshments after 9.30am Masses at St Mary's each week
and as announced after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
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

<i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Sat 15th Feb:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
	Sunday 16th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
	Monday 17th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>
	Tuesday 18th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross * 2.00pm Scripture Sharing at St Gilbert's Presbytery— <i>All welcome</i>
	Wednesday 19th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Thursday 20th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross * 1.15pm Funeral Service at Holy Cross for the late Winifred Chirnside— <i>May she rest in peace</i>
	Friday 21st:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (<i>with Confessions available</i>) with: 6.45pm Chaplet of the Holy Family * followed by: 7.00pm Benediction and Mass at Holy Cross *
<i>Chair of St Peter, Apostle</i>	Saturday 22nd:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (<i>with Confessions available</i>) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, at St Mary's
<i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Sunday 23rd:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) * 9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 2.00-4.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Gilbert's Presbytery— <i>All welcome</i> 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

* *Livestreamed*

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](#).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,024.63. The retiring collection raised £169.93 for the SVP, thank you. Thank you also to all those who donate to the parish by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices at the back of both Churches. (The device at Holy Cross will soon be replaced to introduce the same payment system to both churches) Scan the QR Code, right, to donate to the parish. Thank you!



RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: CARJ for Racial Justice
Next week: No retiring collection next week

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of the Good Samaritan, Burnley, together with Fr. David Featherstone, their parish priest and Dean, Fr Job Zirra Stephen and Deacon Theo Sharrock. We pray for Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic College and for their three parish primary schools. We pray for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy and for the Burnley General Hospital.

PARISH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- 50:50 tickets are on sale after all Masses. Price £1.
- Tickets for the St Patrick's social to be held on 15th March are available after all Masses. Price £12.00.
- The parish summer fair will be held on Saturday 5th July 2025.

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: rosemarie.twemlow@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Newsletter: newsletter@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Facebook: @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, Hall Manager
Telephone: 07580 571839—*please leave a voicemail*
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 921 1675 (*note, new number*)
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