

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

1st Sunday of Lent

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 1

TEMPTATIONS IN THE WILDERNESS

Here, at the start of Lent, we are used to hearing the story of Jesus' time in the wilderness, fasting for forty days and forty nights and facing temptation at the hands of Satan. St Mark's account is brief – indeed his Gospel is the shortest of all – but the significance is still just as great. Placed into context, the previous passage related the story of Jesus visiting the River Jordan and encountering John the Baptist there. Receiving John's baptism, Jesus had experienced the closeness of God his Father: "You are my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on you." From here on, the carpenter of Nazareth, the son of Joseph as people thought, would move on to a whole new chapter of his life. The time had come for the sinless, innocent one to begin his work of healing souls, setting the guilty free from their sins and fulfilling the purpose for which he had been born, some thirty years earlier, in the stable in Bethlehem. Now, the angels who sang at his birth would be called upon once more.

If Jesus' message was to be relevant to the sinners he came

to save, then his experience of our life-challenges, our choices and our troubles had to be something real. He could not simply take the "feel-good factor" of hearing himself called the "beloved Son" and walk straight into the lives of those who felt unloved, rejected or unworthy. Maybe it was for this reason that he now had to face real temptation head-on. He went straight from that high-point of his baptism in the Jordan into the depths of the wilderness. There, during his time of fasting, Jesus would himself face the wiles of Satan and have to make key choices. Satan's ways are easy quick-fixes – they are always both attractive and comfortable – but Jesus learned here the folly of his opponent, and emphatically chose instead the path of God. He knew this path could never be easy, but it would be graced at every step by God's love, the love which he was born to be. And so, his choices made, those angels of old came to his side once more to look after him.

If our experience of Lent is to have any real value, then all our chosen observances – what we have given up, or what we have decided to do extra – must lead us into our own "wilderness." For us, the wilderness symbolises that place where we face our "demons" – where we can no longer hide from our faults and failings or distract ourselves by the constant action of being busy with work or entertained in our leisure. With our comforts and our distractions restricted, we too must make our choices – often difficult ones – for good once more. But the Gospel message, the "Good News," is that we do not do this alone. Christ has been here before us, and if we give Him our trust, we will receive in return all the strength and support we need.

So, let us invite Christ once more into our hearts, not to shield us from experiencing the evils around us, but rather to empower us against them. By our Lenten observance, may we, too, hear the voice of God calling us his beloved sons and daughters and, with Jesus as our guide, may we share in his work today and in our own small way bring healing and hope to our world.

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 Morrissey, Martin Staddon, Ishrat McLevey, 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.

Anniversaries: Frank Gribbin, Jimmy Yellop, Agnes and Charles Geeney, Marie Payne, 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.

We also pray: for a birthday intention, 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: Daniel, Alan
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Sheila, Paul

OFFERTORY

Collection: 10th/11th February: See printed version
SVP: See printed version
St Barnabas Society: See printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week
Next week: Watch this space for a new Lenten Challenge!

• *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 19th February)*

Monday:	8.45am Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	8.45am Stations of the Cross at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Thursday:	12.30pm Funeral Mass at St Matthew's for the late May McKnight. <i>May she rest in peace</i>
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 2.30pm Sacramental Programme class in the Community Hall for children attending non-Catholic schools

YOUTH LAUNCH!

We will be launching our Impact Group for 11-17 year-olds **THIS THURSDAY** (22nd February). Meet at Holy Cross at 6:30pm and we'll head over to YCW's national headquarters. Pizza provided!

BAPTISMS

May God bless Leo James Openshaw, Connie Jane Cooke, Max Gerard Holloway, Alexander Edward Stasiak and Elijah Kari-boye-Igbo who were baptised at Holy Cross on 11th February.

PARISH ADVENT CHALLENGE

Thanks to your generosity, we hugely exceeded the initial challenge of raising £750 to pay for a community water supply in the developing world. In fact, we have been able to send off a wonderful total of £1,646 (including an anonymous individual donation of £500), which has paid, from the CAFOD World Gifts catalogue, for the following gifts on your behalf:

- 2 Community Water Supplies (at £750 each)
- 1 Marvellous Moo Cow (that's the official title!!) at £100. This is four gifts in one for a family—its manure will help crops grow, its milk will supplement the family's diet and then any extra can be sold at market, and any calves can be passed on to another family. Your gift pays for a locally sourced cow, its jabs, and all the training the family will need.
- Help a refugee child—your final gift of £46 brings emotional and educational support to a child who has fled the violence of war.

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.



17th/18th February 2018

This week please remember in your prayers:

- The Cathedral parish of St. John and the parish of St. Joseph, Ordsall, in Salford, with our Bishop John, Father Michael Jones and Father Alfred Rebello and for the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of St. Joseph.
- We pray for the retired priests living at Cathedral House and for those who work in Diocesan Central Services.
- We pray for the parish primary schools.

**May the Holy Spirit guide us
in Hope in the Future.**

BARBARA COOPER

We acknowledge generous donations to CAFOD totalling £422 which were collected at Barbara Cooper's funeral. Please keep her, and all the faithful departed, in your prayers.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE (MANCHESTER)

From 14th February to 25th March, our community will take part in 40 Days for Life... a groundbreaking, coordinated international mobilisation. We pray that, with God's help, this will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in our city - and beyond. To join the prayerful, peaceful vigil outside the abortion facility in Fallowfield, Manchester please sign up at www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/manchester-2/ or call 07810 791032.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Parish Secretary:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
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<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

Liverpool Road
Patricroft
Eccles
M30 8QD

St Matthew's RC Church

Worsley Road
Winton
Eccles
M30 8BL

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Katrina Foster/Tara Higgins
Email: 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

*SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk*

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey