

# 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

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 3

### Jesus' Sermon continues...

Our reading of the Sermon on the Mount from St Matthew's Gospel continues at Mass today. Jesus continues in reminding his hearers of ancient practices they knew so well - and in challenging them to go that step further, to re-visit the teachings which underpin them and to reach beyond their comfort-zones in an effort to "be perfect, just as [their] heavenly Father is perfect."

In last week's Gospel, we listened to Jesus taking familiar commands and expanding them so as to address the root causes of so many problems, rather than simply to condemn their end result. Now, however, he speaks more in contradiction of the established norms. No more revenge or retaliation. No more hatred of enemies. No more prejudice. No more feeling righteous or justified if we have simply shown kindness to some-

one who is never a threat to us. God's vision of the world is different from our narrow view, and if we wish to be truly Christian, we need to start seeing things through God's eyes. He loves and cares for everyone - good and bad alike. He does not withhold his gift of life from those who would misuse it. He does not reserve good health or prosperity for those who show kindness and generosity. So who are we to judge one another?

Jesus tells us not to fight back. We must love those we find it impossible to like, pray for those who wish us harm, treat our enemies no less favourably than our friends. And it was never going to be easy - it's not easy today - but we know only too well the consequences when we fail. Violence breeds more violence. Divisions breed deeper divisions. Bitterness brings pain and sorrow to both sides of a dispute, with no partiality for justice.

Great people have achieved great things by following Christ's teaching. Irishman Richard Moore, blinded by a soldier's bullet in 1972 at ten years old as he walked home from school, went on to establish the charity, "Children in Crossfire" ([www.childrenincrossfire.org](http://www.childrenincrossfire.org)), actively supporting children affected by violence and poverty throughout the world. And the fact that the soldier who shot him went on to become his friend tells us more about the strength of this group than any mission statement can do.

The power of love and forgiveness against an onslaught of bitterness and hatred can change the world. Can we begin that change, in our own lives and our own petty disputes? Maybe this time or that we will feel no resolution or justice, but we will know in our hearts that we are following the ways of Jesus, our great teacher and guide. And who knows if God's plan might use even our failed efforts to achieve more than we could ever have imagined?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Sheila, Alex, Michael, Martin, Joanne, Aidan, Desmond, Eamon, Maureen, John, Stefa, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Audrey, Annie, Jackie, Ann, Malcolm, Harvey, Claire, Louise and baby Maisy, Lewis (12 yrs. old), Caitlin (age 11), Loren (age 17), Marie, Paddy, John, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Billy, Dennis and Gerald, May, Louise, Lily, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, Elizabeth, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Joseph, Martin, Ishrat, Elaine, Jayne and Christian, Mavis, Antony, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin, Pat.

**Lately Dead:** Peter Dempsey, Anthony Kenny, Agnieszka Cecot, Tony McMillan, Rose Winifred Kelly, Megan Harrison, John Francis Martin, Ronald Dixon, Donna Millett, Cecelia Jackson.

**Anniversaries:** Jimmy Yellop, Harry Banks, Agnes Geeney, Anne Delaney, May Fagan, Sheila Tighe, Eddie Davenport, Patrick McElhinney.

**Remembrance:** Sheila Lengden, Charles Geeney, Tony McMillan, Scanlon and McLernon families.

**We also pray:** in thanksgiving, for world peace, 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, Mike  
**9.00am:** Please log in or see list in church  
**10.30am:** Patricia, Ashlan

### OFFERTORY

**Collection:** Please see printed version. Thank you

### RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collections this week or next

- *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)  
*Tea and coffee are served after both morning Masses*  
**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: 11.00am-11.50am at St Matthew's  
and 6.00pm-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 20th February)

**Monday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**  
**Tuesday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer 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:** 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

## PARISH WEBSITE

Thanks to the generous efforts of Lawrence Gregory, The history pages for the former St Matthew's and the former St Gilbert's parishes are now available online—click on "About Us" and "Parish History" appears as an option. We look forward to his completion of the history of the former Holy Cross parish.

**Other updates on the website:** the "Spiritual Life" article under "About Us" now includes mention of our times of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; a page on the Sacrament of Confirmation has been added; the "Links" page has been updated to include links to Churches Together UK, the Cathedral Centre Bookshop, and Sehion UK (the organisation behind the "Holy Spirit Evenings" and "Kingdom Revelator" magazine).

## THE 'CATHOLIC UNIVERSE' NEWSPAPER

Copies of the Universe are now **on sale at £1.30** each, as the free promotion is now over. It would be helpful if anyone wishing to place a regular order would do so on one of the sheets at the back of church.

## IRISH NIGHT

With Irish band 'Celtic Vibes' and Irish Dancers in Holy Cross Church Hall on Friday 10th March 2017 at 7.30pm. Refreshments, bar and raffle. Adult - £7.00; Children £2.00. Tickets are now available.

## LOURDES 2017

The 85th Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 28th July—3rd August 2017. It will be led by Bishop John Arnold. Please see poster at the back of church.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This global ecumenical day of prayer takes place on the first Friday in March (which this year falls on March 3rd). The service in our area will take place on that day at 1.00pm at Monton Methodist Church, Grange Drive, Monton, M27 4FP. More details are available on the noticeboard at the back of church.

## FRANCIS HOUSE EASTER CHICK APPEAL

Knitters are needed to produce large numbers of knitted chicks which will each be filled with a chocolate egg and sold in aid of the children's hospice. The pattern for the chicks can be found online at [www.franchishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal](http://www.franchishouse.org.uk/easter-knit-a-chick-appeal) or can be obtained by calling 0161 443 2200.

## READERS AND MINISTERS AT HOLY CROSS

Would you like to consider becoming a reader, particularly on a Saturday evening, or a Minister of Communion? If you are interested in knowing more about these valuable ministries please ask Fr Martin or Mike Denton.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gbemisola and James who were baptised at Holy Cross last Sunday, and also to Louis and Liliana who were received into the Catholic Church at the same time. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

A Launch Meeting for the eleventh campaign in Manchester will take place at 7.45pm on Sunday 26th Feb. in the Marian Room at St. Kentigern's Social Club, Hart Road, Fallowfield, M14 7DW. Refreshments afterwards.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Fr Martin A Collins GTCL  
*Telephone:* 0161 789 4424  
*Mobile:* 07502 633383  
*Email:* frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
or via contact form on the parish website.

**Parish Secretary:** Mr Paul Boardman  
*Telephone:* 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Wed, 10am-4pm)  
*Email:* secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
or via contact form on the website.

**Parish Website:** [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)

**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

**Community Hall:** All enquiries to Mrs Anne Benyon  
*Telephone:* 07580 571839

**Holy Cross RC Church**  
Liverpool Road  
Patricroft  
Eccles  
M30 8QD

**Parish Safeguarding Rep:** Sharon Devlin  
*Email:* sharon@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

**St Matthew's RC Church**  
Worsley Road  
Winton  
Eccles  
M30 8BL

*SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037*  
[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*