



# 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

7th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary  
Time  
Daily  
Prayer  
Week 3

## Jesus' Great Sermon continues...

Our reading of the Sermon on the Mount from St Matthew's Gospel continues at Mass today. Jesus continues by reminding his hearers of ancient practices they knew so well—and by 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 the end result of the problems and leave his hearers feeling helpless. 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 someone 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?

Great people have achieved great things by following Christ's teaching. Back in 1981, a man named Mehmet Ali Agca attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II, who is now our parish patron saint. As we know, though seriously wounded, the pope went on to make a good recovery. In 1983, he went to visit Agca in his prison cell to talk, shake hands, and leave a gift of a white Rosary with him as a friend.

The power of love and forgiveness, standing firm against bitterness and hatred, can change the world. Can we begin that change, in our own lives and our own petty disputes? Maybe we will not always feel there has been 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:** Mark, Patrick, Juliana, Terry, Alistair, Elaine, Mary, Anne McGrath, Theresa, Kevin, Sheila, Paddy, Wieslaw.

**Lately Dead:** Marie Gavin, Kenneth Stanaway (*funeral Service at Peel Green Crematorium, 1.40pm on Thursday*), Derek Prestow, John Stevenson, Gareth Blount (age 22), Pat Cosgrave, Mary Conroy, Emily Chesterton, Les Dore, Alan Banks, Sally Corps, Carole Byrne, Jane Heavey, Kathleen Knowles, Frank Crompton, Agnes Kightly.

**Anniversaries:** Maura McLernon, Gerard Nicholls, Joan Baillie, Jimmy Evans, Esther and Martin Roddy, Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, Kath Kitson, John Sargent, Bill Trace, Jean and John Callery, Ann Geeney, Eileen Greenhalgh, Kathleen Brehony.

**Remembrance:** Patricia Malone Sharp, James and Maureen Yellop, Michael and Mary Lambert, Patrick McLernon, John Ward.

**We also pray:** for the success of our forthcoming Parish Mission, for the victims of the Turkey/Syria earthquake and their families, for migrants, for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the war there, for Barbara Keeley, 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 John 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.

## PARISH MISSION STARTS NEXT WEEKEND!

Our Mission begins with the weekend Masses next weekend, led by Redemptorist priests Frs Royston Price CSsR and Kieran Brady CSsR. There will then be Masses at 10.00am each weekday morning and Mission Services at 7.00pm each weekday evening, with additional services as indicated on the posters and in the flyers. If you have not yet taken a flyer, do please take one today—and take them to your friends as well. Help spread the word, and remember:

**YOU ARE THE PARISH!  
THE MISSION IS FOR YOU!**

Please don't let this rare opportunity for spiritual renewal and enrichment pass you by.

## OUR MISSION PRAYER

*Father, pour out your Spirit upon us.  
Grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power,  
a new faithfulness to your Word,  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us  
and your kingdom come.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.*

## EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD are at work on the ground in Turkey and Syria to help bring relief in the crisis there. We will continue our retiring collection from last week for those who still wish to donate. All proceeds will be sent off to CAFOD on Monday. (Card payments are received by them immediately).

## WARM SPACE—COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our "Warm Spaces" initiative continues each week, with breakfast and a friendly atmosphere available in the Community Hall at Holy Cross from 9.30-11.00am (leaving the hour's fast for those coming to Mass and wishing to receive Holy Communion). **All welcome!**

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Classes began on Saturday at Holy Cross for children on our First Communion Programme **who do not attend Catholic schools**. Families are contacted individually about these, but please understand that these classes are important as without them your children miss out on the RE lessons in school which form a major part of the preparation for those who are in Catholic schools.

## 50/50 DRAW RESULT

The winner was Marie C who receives £95, with the same amount going to parish funds. Thank you to those who take part in these fundraising ventures, and thank you to Fran for her organisation and tireless efforts!

## A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Our toilets at both churches are close to outside doors, so it is **essential** that children are supervised to and from the toilet. Sacramental Programme children will be asked to go to the grown-up who brought them to Mass, so that you can supervise them back safely. Thank you for your support in keeping your children safe.

## 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 Liturgies are still currently suspended*  
*Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's*  
*and after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross on 1st and 3rd Sundays*  
**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

\* Livestreamed

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saturday 18th Feb:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
	Sunday 19th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Joel) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
	Monday 20th:	No Mass in the parish on Mondays
	Tuesday 21st:	Sorry, no Mass today
	<b>Ash Wednesday, 22nd:</b>	10.00am Mass at St Mary's (with distribution of Ashes) 1.30pm Mass at Holy Cross (with distribution of Ashes) 7.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (with distribution of Ashes) * 8.30pm Reception Service at St Mary's for Kenneth Stanaway—May he rest in peace
	Thursday 23rd:	10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Friday 24th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (with Confessions available) 6.30pm Stations of the Cross * 7.00pm Mass, at Holy Cross *
	Saturday 25th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with Confessions available) followed by 12 noon Mass at St Mary's
1st Sunday of Lent	<b>Sunday 26th:</b>	<b>6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *</b> <b>9.30am Mass at St Mary's</b> <b>11.15am Mass at Holy Cross</b> <b>6.30pm Mass at St Mary's</b>



**PARISH MISSION BEGINS !**

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](#).

## CAFOD—THE BIG LENT WALK

Walk 200km in 40 days! See the poster at the back of both churches for more details, or speak to Pam. 4,400km have already been pledged so far with 22 signed up—could you add another 200 to the tally? We're not doing this as a traditionally "sponsored" event, but our Lenten Challenge this year will be replaced by taking retiring collections where people can simply donate in support—so no pressure, just walk!! Join us in helping the fight against global poverty.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- St Patrick's Day Social evening—Saturday 18th March at Holy Cross Community Hall. "Pontiac" will be providing the music, and tickets (at £12, including hot supper) are now on sale at both churches. See poster for more details. Donations are requested, please, for raffle prizes—bottles etc. Please contact Veronica via the parish office. Thank you!
- Coronation Day—May 6th—details of our parish celebration will be announced soon.

## CYCLE of PRAYER

This week throughout the diocese we pray for our Retired Priests. We thank God for their years of devotion and service and ask God's blessing upon them now and in the future.



## LENTEN SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Fridays of Lent, beginning this week from 10.30am-12.30pm at Wardley Hall. See poster for details.

## COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £1,016.25. Thank you also to all those who donate by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices now installed at the back of both Churches. The contactless system at Holy Cross has now been updated in line with the new unit at St Mary's, and should be simpler to use. Those who have previously entered Gift Aid details will, however, probably be asked to do so again.

## 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](http://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:** Marie Twemlow/Anna Raynor/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