

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
YEAR C Morning Prayer Week 3

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES...?

Come off it! Who could really do that? Love someone who laughs at you, cheats you, destroys your reputation, even causes you actual harm? Let's be realistic here—the modern world's way is much better: Exercise your rights. Bring your enemies to justice. Get them taught a lesson and, better still, seek compensation—come out of it better off than you were before. After all, you are entitled to it. And everybody else would do the same, wouldn't they?

Who would have thought that "love" might be the hardest Commandment Christ ever gave? And perhaps harder now than ever it was before. This is not to say wrongdoers should not be punished. After all, what good parent would leave their child without appropriate correction after wrongdoing? But how often such correction is followed by an embrace or some other demonstration that it was all done out of love. Can we find it in ourselves to treat our enemies as we might treat the wayward child we long to welcome home? Can we set aside our anger and righteous in-

dignation, and instead let our hearts be torn at the tragedy of antisocial behaviour, violence and vandalism on our streets, at the ignorance of racism and religious bigotry, at the wanton waste and human agony of suicide bombing?

Christ's way of love is set out so clearly before us—and, make no mistake, they crucified him for it. But, even as He was led to the Cross, there was one human pain he never experienced—one tragedy that seems to run through the very heart of our world today: Christ knew no bitterness—and without it, every other injury could be borne, out of love.

I wonder, is there a corner of my heart where bitterness still stifles love, and hides or even destroys the image that God left there when he created me? Or a corner of yours?

As long as we subscribe to the world's way of blame, and fear forgiveness as a sign of weakness; as long as we quote our rights and neglect our responsibilities to be ministers of love and healing, we will never know how Christ walked so serenely to the Cross.

So, love our enemies? By God's Grace, let us try.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Sylvie, Patricia, Yves, Win, Joy, Fr Devaney, Tricia, Barry, Marie, Catherine, James, Albert, Alan, John, John, Malcolm, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Terry, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Eunice, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Jean, Sheila, Monica, Joan, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Sister Olivia, Fr Connelly, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela Sargent, Tony Redgrave, Melanie Esther Moral, Bernard, Martin and Bridget and family, Margaret, Elaine, Ellen, Alec, Glenes, Mary, Stephen, Sheila, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, David, Angela, Jackie, Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, Sheila, Martin Sweeney, Joanne Willows, Desmond Doherty, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, Harvey, Marie, John, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Martin, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Sister Regina, Nijole, Josie, Stephen, Jessie, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: Peter Rose, Martin Roddy, Sr Austin Cairns, James Foley, Victorine De Messe Zinsou, Hortense Gallié, Lesley Costello, Philomena Bowler, David Antler, Helena Tryk, Delia Blackburn, Baby Adrianna Warwzyk, Frank Griffin, John Sargent, Delia Blackburn, Charlotte Ainsworth, Donald MacPherson, Elizabeth Smith.

Anniversaries: Alex Santana Fernandes (Sunday's 11am Mass), Joan Baillie, Gerard Nicholls, Eileen Banks, Agnes Geeney, Jean-Jaques Béchio, Pierre Gallié, Evelyn Coppini, Harry Banks, Madge Simpson, Esther Roddy, Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, May Fagan.

Remembrance: Charles Geeney, Marie Payne, Ann Geeney, Bernard Chinnery, Scanlon, Chinnery and Kirk families.

We also pray: for Fr Livesey (now semi-retired at St Joseph's, Accrington), in thanksgiving, for world peace, for the people of Southern Cameroon, for Bishop John and the restructuring of our diocese, for the house-bound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, and for a number of special intentions.

FIRST COMMUNION DATES

First Reconciliation (at parish Reconciliation Services):

- 1 Thursday 14th March, 6.30pm at Holy Cross
- 2 Thursday 21st March, 6.30pm at St Mary's
- 3 Wednesday 27th March, 6.30pm at Holy Cross

First Communion Masses:

- 1 Saturday 22nd June, 6.15pm Mass at Holy Cross
- 2 Sunday 23rd June, 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 3 Sunday 23rd June, 2.00pm additional Mass at St Mary's
- 4 Sunday 30th June, 11.00am Mass at Holy Cross
- 5 Sunday 30th June, 2.00pm additional Mass at Holy Cross

All of these Masses (including additional Masses) are open to all parishioners. (*No celebration is assigned to any of our three schools, primarily because so many children are not in Catholic schools and it would be unjust to have them feel like "guests" of another school. They are not guests—they are full members of the parish and we must respect them and their families as such.*)

Parishioners, please be aware that the churches will be crowded on all these occasions—but we would still love to see you there!

St MARY'S HALL

We would like to express our appreciation to Forshaw's Fencing Ltd (Swinton) for their support in disposing of unwanted goods from the hall, and their very generous donation towards the new cooker and dishwasher. We would also like to thank Myladoor's (Eccles) for supplying these items at cost price.

OFFERTORY

Collection: 16th/17th February: See print version
CARJ (for Racial Justice): See print version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week
Next week: SVP monthly collection

- New to one of the parishes?
 - 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):	6.15pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning:	9.30am at St Mary's 11.00am at Holy Cross (with Children's Liturgy throughout the academic year) <i>Refreshments served after morning Mass at Holy Cross and as announced at St Mary's</i>
Sunday Evening:	6.15pm at St Mary's
Weekdays:	See Weekday Calendar below
Holydays:	As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Mary's
and 5.45-6.05pm 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 Baptism.
Please speak to Fr Martin or Sr Jenny after Mass*

Weekday Calendar *(Week beginning Monday 25th February)*

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Eucharistic Service
Tuesday:	12 noon Mass at St Mary's 7.00pm Choir rehearsal at Holy Cross. <i>New members always welcome</i>
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Thursday:	12 noon Mass at St Mary's 7.00pm Hope in the Future Committee Meeting at Holy Cross (Parish meeting room)
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 Mary's followed by 12 noon Mass and Novena

HOPE IN THE FUTURE GROUP MEETING

...on Thursday, 7pm at Holy Cross (parish meeting room). All members please make every effort to attend. Thank you.

ESTABLISHING NEW KEYHOLDERS for St MARY'S

Thank you to those who have kindly offered to help as keyholders as we move into a new system for opening and securing St Mary's church, now that the parish priest no longer lives on site. Priority at this stage has been given to:

- 1 those who usually arrive at church first and leave last, ideally on weekdays as well as Sundays, as these people are already largely familiar with the routines for preparing Mass and securing the building
- 2 Eucharistic Ministers who need access during the week to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound
- 3 those involved with church cleaning who, again, need access outside of Mass times.

We are still seeking more volunteers from these categories, but if we cannot be certain of the presence of such keyholders, especially to open and close for Sunday Masses offered by the Spiritan priests, and to close up when Fr Martin is rushing back to Holy Cross, we may well take up other offers from those who can help on these occasions but not at other times. Once again, **thank you for all offers**, whether we have as yet taken you up on them or not.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Formerly known as the "Women's World Day of Prayer," this annual event is now open to everyone. For this year, the resources have been prepared by the Christian women of Slovenia, with the theme: "Come, everything is ready." Another change for this year is that there will now be two service times available, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. For our local area, both of these will take place at Monton Methodist Church (Grange Drive, Monton, M30 9JG) at 2pm and again at 7.30pm on **Friday 1st March**. All are welcome at this ecumenical "service for everyone."

23rd/24th February 2019



This week we pray for:

- the parish of St. Patrick, Rochdale, and St. Mary, Littleborough, with Fr. Lasia
- the parish of St. Edmund and St. Patrick, Bolton with Fr. Haworth
- their parish primary schools
- the chaplaincies to the University of Bolton, to Buckley Hall Prison, and to Bolton Hospice

PARISH MASS TIMES ONLINE

We have been approached, on more than one occasion, with complaints that our Mass times are shown incorrectly on the parish website. **This is not the case**, but please be aware that Sunday Mass times are also advertised on some other websites over which we have no control (though our recent changes have been reported to the site owners). **Our parish website is www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk** and only here can we control what information is displayed. Thank you for your understanding.

"LOVE'S OWN STORY IS YOURS"

There will be a series of meditations on the seven Last Words of Christ on Wednesdays of Lent (starting Ash Wednesday, 6th March) at St Mary's, Mulberry Street, (the "Hidden Gem"). See the poster at the back of church, or pick up a flyer. All are welcome to "meet the real Christ" for Lent, in preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

PHILOMENA BOWLER RIP

Fr Heakin's aunt, Philomena, will be known to several parishioners. Sadly, she died recently and her funeral will take place at St Osmund's Church, Bolton, **this Wednesday** (27th February) at 11.00am.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:	Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	martin.collins@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-4pm)
<i>Sec. 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
Parish Halls Hire:	Enquiries to Steve Jackson
<i>Telephone:</i>	07580 571839
<i>New Email:</i>	hall@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Holy Cross RC Church

Liverpool Road
Patricroft
M30 8QD

St Mary's RC Church

Oxford Street
Eccles
M30 0LU

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Katrina Foster/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

*SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey