



CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN PAUL II, ECCLES

Services usually 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

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Is Jesus kidding? Who could possibly love their enemies? 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 so much more satisfying: 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 this kind of 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 indignation, and instead let our hearts be torn at the tragedy of antisocial behaviour, violence knife crime on the

streets, at the ignorance of racism and religious bigotry, at the wanton waste and human agony of suicide bombing, at the threat of invasion in Ukraine?

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.

THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD

Pope Francis has asked us, the people of St John Paul II parish, to help him. Not just us, of course, but every parish in every diocese across the world. He wants us to spend some time listening to each other in our parishes, and to those outside our churches, whether it's those who have drifted away from Mass or have been hurt by the Church, and to those on the margins of society. He wants us, individually and together with our families and friends, to ask ourselves what the Holy Spirit wants our Church to be in this Third Millennium.

Why us? Our Catholic Faith teaches us that the Holy Spirit speaks through all the members of the Church, lay-people, religious, deacons and priests, bishops and the Pope. Each of us have something to say and he wants to listen. That's why he recently said "In the one People of God let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit."

Pope Francis seeks a Church where all can feel at home and participate. He wants us to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine in order to stop and listen, firstly to the Spirit in adoration and prayer, and then to our brothers and sisters, their hopes, the crises of faith around the world, the need for renewed pastoral life. And Pope Francis urges us not to be distant but to become a Church of closeness by her very presence, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the soothing touch of God.

At this time he is asking us to reflect on a few questions and respond to them, as a group or individually. The questions are available at: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod. Please respond to those questions that engage you the most. Talk about them with your family and friends. Encourage them to help shape your response. Do it prayerfully. Remember; it's not about 'this is what I want' but rather 'this is what I feel the Holy Spirit is saying to me about.....' And begin by saying simply 'Come, Holy Spirit.' Also consider asking a friend or family member to also respond, we are looking for a wide range of voices to help shape our diocesan response.

Responses can be submitted online (www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/synod/) or by post. You can also find a wealth of resources here to help you think on the questions. Unfortunately there isn't much time because the deadline is March 15th. This will give us a chance to prepare a summary of the responses which will then find its way to Rome. That summary and a larger reflection on the responses will also be available for the people of our Diocese.

So, Pope Francis needs us, each and everyone of us, priests and people, women and men, young and not so young, church-goers and non-church-goers, and many others besides to gather our thoughts and share them with him. Let's all of us help Pope Francis to fulfil his ministry as our Holy Father.

RED MISSION BOXES

Boxes that were brought in to be emptied, counted and sent off, are now ready to be collected again from the back of church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Mark, Tom, Angela, Jack, Bridie, Maureen, Peggy Leatham, Bridget, Peter, Rifa, Barbara, baby Rosa, Edna, Linda, Fr Peter CSSP, Ann-Marie, Liz, Stephen, Elizabeth, Irene, Shane, Sidney, Margaret, Carole, Marjorie, Geoff, Anne, Agnes, Alan, Margaret, Peter, Ann, Paul, Allan, Keith, Gwyneth, Karen, Sylvia, Kenneth, Patrick, Kathleen, Pat, Doreen, Helen, Bridget, Sara, Tara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Sarah, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick, David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Ann, Patrick, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Frances, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, John, Joan, Paul, Peter, Maureen, Pat, Patrick, David, Sister Maureen, Yvonne, Terry, Betty, Betty, Kathleen, Colette, Stanley, Win, Catherine, James, Alan, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Fr Connelly, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Elaine, Ellen, Glenes, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Sheila, Martin, Joanne, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, John, Kenneth, Vera, Lily, Gerald, May, Louise, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Nicola, Don, Nijole, Roger, Ken, Stephen, Mildred.

Lately Dead: Pat Dale, Josette Buenaventura, Norman McKenzie, Barry Ratcliffe, Arthur Farrington, Ujitha Silva, Graham Compton, Ron Sparrow, Vivienne Morrissey, Stephen John Comerford, Graham Compton, Don Healde, Joan Chinnery, Anne Dale.

Anniversaries: Christina Walsh (10th Anniversary—Sunday's 11.15am Mass), John Jae Tighe, Joan Baillie, Catherine & John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, William and Kathleen Tuite, Mary Ferm, John Sargent, Esther and Michael Roddy, baby Michael Roddy, Kath Kitson, Maura McLernon, Agnes McCarthy, May Fagan, Sheila Tighe, Jean & John Callery, Arthur Baum, Teresa Arden, Maria Teresa Velasquez.

Remembrance: Charles and Agnes Geeny, Marie Payne.

We also pray: in thanksgiving to Our Blessed Lady, for migrants, for the people of Afghanistan, for peace in Ukraine and all around the world, and for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for the Syro-Malabar community, for each of our schools, and for our Sacramental Programme families. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout the Covid-19 crisis and for all those suffering from the disease, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers and for a number of special intentions.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES from NEXT WEEK

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning: 9.30am at Holy Cross
11.15am at Holy Cross

*Children's Liturgies are currently suspended
Refreshments after Masses are also currently suspended*

Weekdays: See Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions currently available, 11.10-11.45am on Saturdays
and now also 6.10-6.45pm on Fridays
Please be guided by the stewards

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—Church Opening in Red

*For more on our present
Coronavirus response,
please see our website at:
www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk/coronavirus*

Saturday 19th Feb: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)
Sunday 20th: 9.30am Mass at Holy Cross
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
Monday 21st: Sorry, no Mass on Mondays
Tuesday 22nd: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)
Wednesday 23rd: Sorry, no Mass today as Fr Martin has a commitment out of the area.
Thursday 24th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)
Friday 25th: 7.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed) following a Holy Hour from 6.00pm
Saturday 26th: 12 noon Mass at Holy Cross following a Holy Hour from 11.00am (Livestreamed)
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)

*All Services at St Mary's are
suspended during the
renovation works*

This 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 viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Baptisms: Please pray for Angel, Theodore and Paul, who were Baptised this week.

First Communion Programme—Great to see you at Mass! Please spread the word that, in line with our usual policy and to ensure the best understanding of the Sacrament for the children, weekly attendance at Mass in person is now expected apart from exceptional circumstances (sickness, special vulnerability or self-isolation etc).

Presentation of certificates. This will continue to be followed up over the next few weeks.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

Throughout the Covid pandemic, the way in which we receive Holy Communion has changed significantly. Some of these changes can now be relaxed, but some we are inclined to keep in place for the benefit they bring. Firstly it remains the case that Communion can be given under one kind only, this being the Sacred Host. Whilst we cannot share the chalice do, please, remember that however small a part of the Eucharist we receive, Faith tells us that we received Our Lord completely—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Secondly, during the pandemic so far it has not been considered safe to receive the Sacred Host onto the tongue. Whilst most are happy to receive in the hand and we still encourage this, for those of you who have found this a step too far—some having received nothing but a blessing for almost two years—we are now once more able to offer Holy Communion on the tongue. Finally, the traditional queue at Communion has been replaced by orderly guidance from the stewards, to maintain social distancing. Whilst the distancing can safely be reduced, we are inclined still to keep this reverential direction at Communion time, but your comments on this would always be welcome. Thank you.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week we pray, throughout the diocese, for the people of the parish of St Margaret Mary, New Moston, and for Father Andrew Starkie, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, for the Presentation Sisters, and for the Manchester mission of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

May they be compassionate as God our Father is compassionate.



St PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT



...with special guest star **Jimmy Cricket** on **Friday 18th March, 7.30-10.30pm** in Holy Cross Community Hall. Tickets **now on sale** after Mass at £12 for adults, £5 children, with supper included. Bring your own drinks (there will not be a bar). **Raffle prize donations** are requested, please—these may be brought along to Holy Cross church next week or brought to the parish office. Thank you in advance—and thank you to Veronica for her usual organisational skills!

THE CATHOLIC POST

Have you picked up your FREE copy of February's edition of the "Catholic Post"? Whilst it suggests donating £1 to the parish (and we won't complain if you do), it really is free! Please take a copy with you as you leave.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £719.72. Thank you also to all those who donate by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless device at the back of church.

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
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: 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
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk*

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey