



# 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

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES...?

Seriously? 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. And you'll feel better then, won't you? Or will you...?

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 indignation, 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—the 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.

## PRESENTATION FROM MARY'S MEALS

Next week we will welcome Fran Lawson from the wonderful charity "Mary's Meals," who is travelling over from Scotland to speak to us at our Masses in preparation for this year's parish "Lenten Challenge" in support of their work.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Pope Francis, Lee, Edna, Eileen, Peter, Aaron (age 14), Mark, Mary, Alan, Mina, Stephen, Charlie (age 10), Margaret, Eileen, Elaine, Julie, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

**Lately Dead:** Patrick Rice, Winifred Chirnsida, Mike Thorpe, Thomas Dempsey, Kevin McElhill, John Twemlow.

**Anniversaries:** Sylvia Dickinson (Sunday's 11.15am Mass), Edward Davenport, Doris, Austin and Kevin Smith, Martin Roddy, Winifred Hannan, Norman Help (Birthday Anniv), Jimmy Yellop, Robert Boyle, Agnes Geeney, Sean Fanning, George Devlin (Birthday Anniv), Maura McLernon, Mary Ferm, Bill Trace, Esther Roddy, Eileen Patricia Jackson (Birthday Anniv), Dermot, Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, Kathleen Ward, Margaret Lucy Scholes, Sunimal and Ujitha, Ann Geeney.

**Remembrance:** Theresa Cooper, Charles and Agnes Geeney, Marie Payne.

**We also pray for:** Jessie (anniversary of reception into the Catholic Church), Bernard P, Patricia (Birthday wishes), the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars and fragile peace there, for other countries suffering unrest, for migrants and refugees, for children suffering from poverty, for the victims of modern slavery, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for Michael Wheeler, 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 Stanto 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.

## RED MISSION MOXES

The time has come once again to empty the boxes and send the funds to the APF. We would be grateful if you could bring them into church—St Mary's or Holy Cross—over the next few weeks. Thank you.

## JUBILEE YEAR—PILGRIM'S PASSPORT

Create new family traditions this Jubilee year by picking up our family-friendly guide to Jubilee churches in the Diocese of Salford. With fast facts, thought-provoking questions, and different activities, our Pilgrim's Passport is the ideal companion to help families pray and journey together this Jubilee Year. Find out more at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/pilgrims-passport/> or visit one of our Designated Churches to begin.

## JUBILEE YEAR—24 HOURS WITH THE LORD

Beginning with **Holy Hour at 6pm on Friday 28th March** and concluding with the **6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 29th March** our time through the night and day will be punctuated with prayer activities (such as Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy, Spiritual Music etc) and, apart from the Mass times (with the Saturday 12 noon Mass transferring from St Mary's to Holy Cross on this occasion), the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed throughout with periods of silence. The schools will also be involved during the Saturday afternoon. To enable all this to happen, we are seeking volunteers who would commit to being in the church at prayer for 1-hour stretches from 8pm on the Friday—5pm Saturday. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church if you are ready to take part—but please understand that we hope as many as possible will be present at every stage. The two "signing in" in advance as simply the absolute minimum we need for the event to take place.



## JUBILEE PRAYER

*Please use the Jubilee Prayer whenever you can:*

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. Please help us to keep them safe at all times. Thank you!

## A HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

The "default" position for kneelers in both churches is DOWN. If you need to raise them to move into or out of the bench, please ensure they are then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall. If you need help to adjust a kneeler, please speak to one of the stewards who will be happy to assist you.

## THANK YOU...

...from Lillian: "Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that I received on the occasion of my 90th birthday. They were a huge surprise and very much appreciated."

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please pray for Margot and Patrick, baptised in the parish this week.

## 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 Liturgy at most 11.15am Masses*  
*Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's each week*  
*and as announced after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross*  
**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

*7th Sunday in Ordinary Time* Sat 22nd Feb: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) \*  
Sunday 23rd: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross  
2.00-4.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Gilbert's Presbytery—  
*All welcome to drop in at any stage*  
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's  
*No Mass in the parish on Mondays*  
Monday 24th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: \* Livestreamed  
Tuesday 25th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
Wednesday 26th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:  
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
Thursday 27th: 11.00am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late John Twemlow—  
*May he rest in peace*  
Friday 28th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament \* (with Confessions available)  
with: 6.45pm Chaplet of the Holy Family \*  
followed by: 7.00pm Benediction and Mass at Holy Cross \*  
*St David - First Saturday* Saturday 1st Mar: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with Confessions available)  
followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)  
2.00pm First Saturday Mass at All Saints' Friary, Barton  
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
*8th Sunday in Ordinary Time* Sunday 2nd: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross  
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

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](#).

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

The next meetings for First Holy Communion children, **this time with their parents/carers**, will be at a free choice of **Monday 3rd March, 6.00pm at Holy Cross Church** or **Thursday 6th March, 6.00pm at St Mary's**. These meetings are in preparation for First Reconciliation and to announce a choice of dates for the First Holy Communion Masses. Please come to whichever meeting is more convenient.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,005.93. The retiring collection raised £80.82 for CARJ, thank you. Thank you also to all those who donate to the parish by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices at the back of both Churches. Scan the QR Code, right, to donate to the parish. Thank you!



## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week  
Next week: Mary's Meals—an early start for Lent!!

## CYCLE OF PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishioners of the parishes of St Mary, Clayton-le-Moors, Our Lady and St Hubert with St Wulstan, Great Harwood and St Charles Borromeo, Rishton, with Fr Ethelbert Arua OSJ, their parish priest, and Fr Stephen Adedeji OSJ. Let us pray for their four parish primary schools.

## PARISH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- 50:50 fundraiser. Tickets will be on sale for £1 after all Masses. This will be drawn on March 2nd.
- Tickets for the St Patrick's social to be held on Saturday 15th March are on sale after all Masses. Price £12.
- The next monthly prize draw will take place on Sunday 2nd March after the 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday July 5th.

## 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:** rosemarie.twemlow@dioceseofsalford.org.uk  
**Newsletter:** @ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** @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, Hall Manager  
**Telephone:** 07580 571839—*please leave a voicemail*  
**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 921 1675 *(note, new number)*  
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*