

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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 4

Money, money, money ...

At the height of the Italian Renaissance in the 15th Century, as artists and craftsmen of every discipline saw and portrayed the beauty of creation in painting, architecture and sculpture, a banker in Florence brought it all 'down to earth' with a statement that could so easily have been made yesterday: "It is generally said, and it is true, that earning and spending are among the greatest pleasures given to man, and it is difficult to say which one gives greater pleasure." Today as much as then, we earn (or we collect), we spend - we seek to get more so we can spend more. We imagine satisfaction will come with the next possession - or the next, or the next ... And so it goes on, a life spent wading through a quagmire of materialism.

In today's Gospel, as the 'Sermon on the Mount' continues, Jesus tells his followers: "You cannot be the slave both of God and of money." He is not saying pros-

perity is wrong, nor possessions - it's the way we relate to them. It's how they can control us when we get our priorities wrong.

"Look at the birds of the sky," he says, "they do not sow or reap, or gather into barns..." They do not earn or spend - but they work hard for what matters, and gather for their nests and for their young. And God cares for each of them. Then: "think of the flowers in the fields..." - beauty beyond that which human hands can create - yet so transient. Their purpose achieved, they disappear.

So what of us, as we earn and spend? Like Martha in St Luke's Gospel, so often we worry and fret about such trivial things - and we become so preoccupied with the mechanisms of our material existence, that we grow selfish. We forget that we are a part of a community - a bigger family - the family of God. And we forget that God's love would provide for us, if we got our priorities right, if we embraced that love by sharing it with one another. God's infinite care will support us, if we allow ourselves to tap into it by taking a step back from our own needs and desires, and showing care for someone else instead.

Let us invite Jesus' teachings into our hearts anew, reminding us of what it means to belong to Christ, and not to be slaves to materialism. May the example we show by our lives shine with the love of God, and encourage a spirit of trust in His power to provide what really matters, and to lead us all to His kingdom.

LENT STUDY GROUPS

The lists remain in place at the back of each Church for those who would like to get involved with these house-based ecumenical study groups as a part of their spiritual preparation for Easter. Lists must be completed this weekend, and places will be allocated during the week, ensuring no individual group is over-subscribed.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Veronica, Moira
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Alvin, Kevin

OFFERTORY

Collection: Please see printed version. Thank you

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collection this week
Next week: SVP monthly collection

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Sheila, Sheila, Alex, Michael, Martin, Joanne, Aidan, Desmond, Eamon, Maureen, John, Stefa, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Audrey, Annie, 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, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, 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: Patrick Roddy, Joyce Cole, Irene O'Leary, Fr Joe Wareing SJ, Lily O'Reilly, Peter Dempsey, Anthony Kenny, Agnieszka Cecot, Tony McMillan, Rose Winifred Kelly.

Anniversaries: Agnes Geeney, Jimmy Yellop, Harry Banks, Agnes Geeney, Anne Delaney, May Fagan.

Remembrance: Charles Geeney, Marie Payne, Sheila Lengden, 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.

*• 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 27th February)

Monday: 9.00am Morning Prayer at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**
Tuesday: **9.45am Funeral Mass** at **Holy Cross** for the late Irene O'Leary. *May she rest in peace*
Ash Wednesday: **10.00am Mass** at **Holy Cross**, with distribution of Ashes. Both our primary schools will be in attendance
7.00pm Evening Mass at **St Matthew's** for **Ash Wednesday** with distribution of Ashes
Thursday: **10.00am Funeral Mass** at **Holy Cross** for the late Peter Dempsey. *May he rest in peace*
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).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Thea and Rory who were baptised at Holy Cross last Sunday. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

THE 'CATHOLIC UNIVERSE' NEWSPAPER

Copies are **on sale at £1.30** each. Sheets are still available for those who would like to place a regular order—these will be invoiced at the end of each month.

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.

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.

LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday this week—Ash Wednesday. Please see the calendar note above for times of Masses and distribution of ashes. In addition, there will be Stations of the Cross during Lent at St Gilbert's Presbytery at 3.00pm on the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March and 6th April

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.

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.

APF (RED MISSION BOXES) APPEAL

There will be an appeal at next weekends' Masses by the Mill Hill Missionaries, who are hoping to recruit new members

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

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

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey