



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

2nd Sunday of Lent

Daily Prayer Week 2

THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF LIFE

We have just reached the great turning point in St Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has questioned his disciples directly about who he is, and Peter's profession of Faith has defined once and for all what they had all begun to realise—he is the Son of God, the Messiah. Yet still, they do not fully understand what his Messiahship will mean. To them, the Messiah was to be a great and powerful king who would overthrow the oppressive regime of the Romans, and bring about God's Kingdom in power and glory. But that time had not yet come. Jesus had to explain to them that his way was one of suffering. Only then would people understand the full meaning of God's love for them. And his followers? They too would suffer, but it would all be worthwhile.

The disciples are perplexed and troubled. Why should their Lord be made to suffer? How could they face the time ahead? They needed assurance, whether they asked for it or not. And so we come to today's Gospel—all the assurance they need. For just a moment, they see Jesus in his glory, alongside those great Old Testament symbols of the Law and the Prophets: Moses and Elijah. They hear the voice of the Father: "This is my beloved Son... Listen to him." That moment will sustain them through the times of uncertainty and pain ahead of them. And it will sustain Jesus too, in the darkest hours of Gethsemane and all that will follow.

Such moments are God given to sustain us as well. The times when we are affirmed by another or give such affirmation; the times when we glimpse the possibilities of life; the times when we feel and share the real joy of the Gospel—these are our moments of Transfiguration, and they strengthen us to face the trials and tribulations of life. In sadness we are so much more inclined to ask "Why me?" and question where God is in the situations in which we find ourselves and our loved ones. If only we could remember our moments of Transfiguration then! Let us treasure all these gifts and remember them when times seem hard. Our God will lead us through!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

Each Friday of Lent we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Church, as part of the weekly Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Lenten Challenge continues!
Next week: SVP Monthly Collection (+ Challenge continues...)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Jacqueline, Denise, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Jan, Margaret, Susan, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, David, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Jessie Collins, Susan Mary Hill, Joan Vanderlee, Samuel Assah, Jim MacDonald, Fr Francis Austin, Fr Robert Morrow, Chris Basson, Margaret Reddington, Mohamed Kader, Bernard Scott, Michael Joseph Campbell, Margaret Reddington.

Anniversaries: Esther Froggatt, Joan Baillie, Winifred Hannan, Jimmy Evans, Gerard Sewell (Birthday Anniv), Sylvia Dickinson, George Devlin (90th Birthday Anniv), Sean Fanning, Martin Roddy, Gerard Nicholls (22nd Anniv), Maura McLernon (5th Anniv), Peter McGrory (100th Birthday Anniv), Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy, Esther Roddy, Ann Geaney, Mary Ferm, John Twemlow (1st Anniv).

We also pray: for Pope Leo and the Church throughout the world, the cancellation of world debt, for the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for other countries suffering unrest, for victims of terrorist attacks, 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 Mission of St Euphrasia based at St Mary's, 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.

LENTEN STATION MASSES

Thank you to all those who joined us last Wednesday for the first of this year's Deanery Station Masses for Lent. The remaining dates and venues are listed below. Each of the Masses will be on a **Wednesday at 7.30pm**, and each will offer Confessions for half an hour before Mass:

- **This Wednesday**, (4th March)—St Sebastian's, Salford
- 11th March—Holy Cross, with Bishop John
- 18th March—Ss Peter and Paul's, Pendleton
- 25th March—St Teresa's, Irlam

NEWS FROM ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

As we begin our observance of Lent in school, please find our news from February below:

- Thank you to Fr Martin for celebrating Mass with Year 7! Pupils shared that they enjoyed the opportunity to receive Holy Communion in school, singing our school hymn and participating through planning and ministries. Thank you as well to the parents and carers who joined us.
- Pupils have been busy putting the principles of Catholic Social Teaching into action, completing their CST reward cards. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils putting their faith into action through loving and serving others.
- All pupils have participated in their Lenten Liturgies this week, where we have been challenged to reflect on how we will pray, fast and give during the season of Lent with a focus on Pope Leo's call for us to fast from 'words that wound'.
- Many pupils voluntarily observed CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday, opting for a simpler lunch option and donating the money saved to supporting our global neighbours. Thank you to all pupils and parents/carers who supported this first fundraising initiative!
- Middle Leaders in school have been working on how to further develop the Catholicity of our curriculum and how to further improve the use of scripture during assemblies. Again, thank you to Fr Martin for joining our meetings, and for speaking to Heads of Year about the nature and importance of the Bible.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

Dates for our First Holy Communion Masses (and also meetings in preparation for First Reconciliation) were announced by email on Thursday last week. Any problems, please let the parish office know. Please understand that every allocation at one of these Masses remains dependent upon continued engagement with the programme of preparation. This week's First Reconciliation meetings on Tuesday and Thursday are identical sessions—it does not matter which meeting you attend. (Please note that these meetings are for **parents and children**).

DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

As we progress through the implementation stages of the Universal and Diocesan Synods, please use the Synod Prayer whenever you can, praying for each other and for the wider Diocesan community:

Loving Father,
 be with us as we seek new ways
 of being your people in our Diocese.
 May each new day bring us
 closer to your son Jesus,
 as we follow his teaching and
 become disciples of love.
 As we continue our Synodal journey,
 draw us closer to each other.
 May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us.
 Open our hearts, as we listen to each other
 and reach out in love to your people.
 Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. **Amen.**

MONTH OF RAMADAN

We wish to all our Muslim neighbours "Ramadan Mubarak"—a blessed Ramadan—as they observe their annual season of fasting. *During this time, we are happy to welcome members of the Eccles Mosque community to use our car park at St Mary's during the evenings.*

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.

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 are normally served after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's and as announced after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
Sunday Evening: 6.30pm at St Mary's
The 6.30pm Mass is kept quiet to be autism-friendly
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

Sat 28th February: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday)
2nd Sunday of Lent Sunday 1st March: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's *Sorry, no refreshments after this Mass*
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
Monday 2nd: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays* * Livestreamed
2.00pm Monthly Prayer Group in St Mary's Sacristy
Tuesday 3rd: 11.00am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Chris Basson—
May he rest in peace
6.00pm First Holy Communion meeting for **parents and children** at Holy Cross
Wednesday 4th: **7.30pm Deaney Lenten Station Mass at St Sebastian's RC Church**
Gerald Rd, Salford M6 6DW, with *Confessions from 7.00pm*
Thursday 5th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (with Y5 from Holy Cross & All Saints' School) *
6.00pm First Holy Communion meeting for **parents and children** at St Mary's
Friday 6th: 9.00am Mass at St Patrick's School with Y8—*All welcome*
11.45am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Andrew Martinez—
May he rest in peace
6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions with
6.30pm Stations of the Cross for Lent * *followed by*
7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
Saturday 7th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*Confessions available*)
followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
4.00pm Confirmation Group meeting at Holy Cross Hall
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
3rd Sunday of Lent Sunday 8th:
9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas)
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent—6.30pm at Holy Cross

Saturday's Vigil Mass will continue to be available on the [Live!](#) 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](#).

JESSIE COLLINS

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Fr Martin's mother, Jessie, last Monday morning. Since Covid she has been a familiar figure in the parish and you always made her feel at home here. Her funeral will be at Holy Cross Church on Monday 23rd March at 11.30am and everyone is, of course, welcome. Fr Martin's family would like to express their sincere gratitude to so many parishioners who gave her such amazing support during the last weeks and months of her life. Your kindness has meant so much.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £978.33, and the retiring collection raised £605.07 for Mission, making a wonderful start to the Lenten Challenge. 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), if you would like to donate to the parish today. Thank you!



CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishioners of St Stephen's, Droylsden, together with Fr Bernard Wilson, their parish priest, Fr Callistus Orjika, and their parish primary school.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The monthly prize draw will take place after the 11.15 Mass at Holy Cross today, Sunday. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- The 50:50 will be drawn after the monthly prize draw.

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!

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS *(Please note that email addresses below can NOT be copied 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: newsletter@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Facebook: [@ourparishcommunity](#)
YouTube: www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIEcclcs/

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 567 9012 (*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