

# 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

## 1st Sunday of Lent

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 1

### GENESIS AND THE FALL OF HUMANITY

All the great religions root themselves deeply in the past. They look back on the way things were, or might have been, and seek to explain how their followers in more modern times come to be the way they are now; how our world has become the place in which we live today. And our own great religion of Christianity is no exception in this. We trace our roots back to the Jews of ancient times (as Jesus was himself a Jew), and then we look back further through the eyes of the Jews themselves into a distant past when humanity first came to be. In common with so many other Creation stories, the Book of Genesis describes a time when things were perfect, and then offers explanation as to what happened to make it all go wrong.

Rich in truths about God and about our relationship with Him, (though most would agree somewhat lighter on historical facts), we read in today's First Reading the

story of the perfect life of Adam and Eve, shattered by their disobedience to God in eating the forbidden fruit. The effects of sin upon them were just the same as the effects upon us in the present day. From complete openness and innocence, they now find themselves hiding aspects of themselves from each other, and running away to hide themselves from God. Secrecy, and fear of being found out, replace the bliss they once enjoyed. And God calls out to them: "Where are you?"

They must now toil and suffer in a difficult land, banished from the perfection of Eden—and a journey of faith begins for them and their descendants as they try to rediscover God once more, and seek to experience joy again in the love they had once abandoned.

As we begin this season of Lent, we hear God's call: "Where are you" ringing out once more. God's only Son is sent to us in person, to seek us out and offer healing; to bring light into the darkness we build for ourselves, and to bring the real hope of salvation. And in the wilderness in today's Gospel, he faces all the temptations of the world—every easy solution, every short-cut to the illusion of happiness and success—and is victorious, through Grace and the Word of God.

Let us use this sacred season wisely. In the things we have given up or the extras we demand of ourselves, let us discover where we truly are in our lives, and let God find us at last. And as Jesus overcame every temptation by the Word of Scripture, so may we find time to share God's Word, and in it to grow, in truth and in love.

### LENT STUDY GROUPS

The lists have been sent in, and places will be allocated according to space in the homes of those who are hosting these groups, on behalf of churches Together in Eccles. If you have not already been contacted someone will be in touch very shortly. Any problems, please speak to Fr Martin.

### 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:** Ellen Houndsly, Johnny Le Roux, Christine Moore, Patrick Roddy, Joyce Cole, Irene O'Leary, Fr Joe Wareing SJ, Lily O'Reilly, Peter Dempsey, Anthony Kenny.

**Anniversaries:** Sheila Cusack, Ted Hosey, Thomas Brehony, Eileen Banks, Brian Platt, Agnes Geeney, Jimmy Yellop.

**Remembrance:** Charles Geeney, Marie Payne, Sheila Lengden, Tony McMillan.

**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.

### READERS THIS WEEKEND

**6.30pm:** Michael, Sharon

**9.00am:** Please log in or see list in church

**10.30am:** Anne, Julius

### OFFERTORY

**Collection:** Please see printed version. Thank you

### RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection

Next week: No retiring collection next week

- *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 6th March)*

**Monday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**  
**Tuesday:** **9.30am Mass** with Year 6 at **Holy Cross and All Saints School**. *All welcome*  
**11.30am Funeral Mass** at **Holy Cross** for the late Patrick Roddy. *May he rest in peace*  
**Wednesday:** 8.45am **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**  
**Thursday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer at **St Matthew's** followed by **9.15am Mass**  
10.00am Pastoral Committee Meeting in the Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross  
**Friday:** 6.30pm **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at **Holy Cross** followed by **7pm Mass** and Divine Mercy  
7.30pm Irish Night celebrations in the Community Hall  
**Saturday (daytime):** 11.00am **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at **St Matthew's** followed by **12 noon Mass** and Novena

## APF (RED MISSION BOX) APPEAL THIS WEEK

This weekend we welcome **Fr Jan Klaver** to all our Masses, making an appeal on behalf of the Mill Hill Missionaries. There will be no collection associated with this appeal, but it is hoped more of you may become members and register for a Red Mission Box.

Those with boxes, please bring them in for counting next weekend (March 11th/12th), or if you need your box to be collected, contact Bob at the church. Thank you.

## VISIT BY BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD NEXT SUNDAY

Bishop John is in no way insensitive to the pain people will feel when church buildings, which have seen so much of their family history unfold, are forced to close through the unavoidable changing circumstances of the modern world. He has offered to visit affected parishes in person, to say Mass there and speak afterwards over refreshments with those who wish. To this end, he has kindly agreed to say the **9.00am Mass at St Matthew's next weekend** (March 12th), and stay for coffee afterwards. I know you will make him welcome, and I am also confident that those who allow it will find some healing in the experience. Let us pray together for that Spirit of healing, to keep us strong as a parish throughout and beyond the changes to come.

## LENTEN SCHOOL OF PRAYER

See poster at the back of church—"Praying with the Gospels of Lent" at St Charles, Swinton. (Saturdays of Lent).

## IRISH NIGHT THIS FRIDAY!

With Irish band 'Celtic Vibes' and Irish Dancers in Holy Cross Church Hall this Friday (10th March) starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments, bar and raffle. Adult - £7.00; Children £2.00. Tickets are still available after all Masses.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST GILBERT'S

Sister Jenny, who we welcome back this week after her stay in Kenya, has arranged for Stations of the Cross to take place **each Thursday of Lent** at 3.00pm at St Gilbert's Presbytery, beginning this week (March 9th), and continuing each week until April 6th.

## 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. (The first invoices are now available, inside the front cover of your named copies).

## 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.

## 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*