

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

2nd Sunday of Lent

YEAR A

Morning 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following 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: Corry Marron Slot, 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: Patrick Comey, Sheila Cusack, Ted Hosey, Thomas Brehony, Eileen Banks, Brian Platt, Agnes Geeney, Jimmy Yellop.

Remembrance: Charles Geeney, Marie Payne, Sheila Lengden, Tony McMillan, all the Holy Souls

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.

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 Son, the Beloved... 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!

APF (RED MISSION BOX) APPEAL

Fr Jan Klaver greatly appreciated your welcome last weekend at all our Masses, as he made the appeal on behalf of the Pope's charity, the Association for the Propagation of the Faith. Many of you agreed to take the Red Mission Boxes after Mass, and your support will bring great benefits to the Church's mission throughout the world. Those with boxes already have been asked, please, to bring them in for counting this weekend. If you need your box to be collected from home, please contact Bob at the church. Thank you.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Alan, Daniel

9.00am: Please log in or see list in church

10.30am: Jaine, Angel

OFFERTORY

Collection: Please see printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collection this week or next

- *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)
	<i>Tea and coffee are served after both morning Masses</i>
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:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass 10.00am Pastoral Committee Meeting in the Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross 7.00pm Parish Reconciliation Service for Lent. (The first of two)
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
Friday:	9.00am Parishioners are welcome to join one of the St Patrick's Day Masses at St Patrick's High School 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

VISIT BY BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD POSTPONED

This weekend we were to welcome Bishop John to St Matthew's to celebrate our 9.00am Sunday Mass. He is in no way insensitive to the pain people will feel when church buildings, which have seen so much of their family history, are forced to close through the unavoidable changing circumstances of the modern world, and is more than willing to come and share the Mass with us and speak, with those who wish, over refreshments afterwards. However, the sad news this week of the sudden death of Fr Geoffrey Hilton at St Osmond's, Bolton, has meant that he must visit their parish this weekend instead. We are sure you will understand that this has had to take precedence, and we hope to be able to arrange for the Bishop to visit us on another occasion soon. Please keep Fr Hilton and the people of St Osmond's in your prayers.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

In order to accommodate all the children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, there will be **two Reconciliation Services** (Rite II), both open to all. The first of these will be **this Tuesday at 7.00pm**, and the second on Wednesday of next week (22nd March) also at 7.00pm at Holy Cross.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST GILBERT'S

Sister Jenny, who is getting back into the 'swing' of things 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. This will continue until April 6th.

IRISH NIGHT

Thank you to all those who supported the Irish Night on Friday, and especially to the organisers, the dancers and the band. A great time was had by all!

LENTEN SCHOOL OF PRAYER

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

DAY OF FELLOWSHIP FOR MEN

"Finding Jesus in Church Heritage"—Saturday 18th March at Our Lady's, Raby Street, Moss Side, 8.30am-5.00pm. The cost will be £10.00, including breakfast and dinner, with concessions available. Advance booking is preferred—contact Fr Pat Deegan on 0161 226 1730 to reserve a place or for more details. See poster at the back of church.

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