

# 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

## 5th Sunday of Lent

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 1

### GROWING THROUGH LOSS AND CHANGE

When we think of the losses we experience in life, our minds often turn to loved ones who have gone before us to their reward - or to thoughts of people so often in the news who face the aftermath of terrorist attacks or natural disasters. And yet in reality, "loss", in its many forms, is a vital part of our journeying through life. From our very beginnings, in birth we experienced the loss of that safe, secure environment of our mother's womb, to enter into a world of uncertainty. Then we lost the familiarity of daily life at home to begin a new routine in which schools and other educational establishments would play a prominent role - one place after another, each one left behind almost as soon as it started to feel safe and familiar.

And then, as we grow up, each stage of our life is marked by people and relationships, so many of whom will only journey with us for a time, until either we must move on from them, or they from us, as our journeys move us ever onwards.

Each move we make, each new challenge, involves a leaving behind of something or someone that has given us stability and security. Each change leaves us bereaved, and a part of our growth through life is learning to accept that bereave-

ment as a part of God's plan for us - something we must face, lest our growth should cease. This is why the Bishop so often commends to us that simple prayer: "Stay with us, Lord, on our journey."

In today's Gospel, Jesus is coming to the end of his earthly mission. He has shared our sense of human loss many times before, (not least when he left the family home of Nazareth to begin his public work), but now he faces the ultimate loss - the sacrifice of his own life. Naturally, he is afraid to take so final a step, and yet he knows that only in this way will his life reach its full meaning. Only with his death could we, the people he came to save, truly come to realise the full depth of God's love, and allow ourselves to be changed by it. And only through his death, could he show forth the glory of the Resurrection.

Let us, then, learn from him to embrace our own losses in life, to accept the pains they bring and, with him, to move forward with loving determination to the completion of God's plan for each one of us, for the good of all his people. At the present time, of course, our own parish faces the real prospect of bereavement and loss, made for some even more difficult by the uncertainty of when it will all happen, with the proposed closure of St Matthew's church and the associated amalgamation with St Mary's. Through it all, together we must both search for and find the holy Will of God, in a church with fewer priests, and move forward through change, in the constant quest for God's glory and his promise of future resurrection. His love will be there for each one of us - let us place our trust in Him, celebrate His love, and advance in Faith.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** David, Cath, Angela, Jackie, Peter, George (age 13), Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, Daniel, John, Sheila, Michael, Martin, Joanne, Desmond, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, Harvey, Marie, Paddy, John, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Dennis and Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Martin, Elaine, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Vanessa, Lyndsay, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

**Lately Dead:** Winifred Stanway, Maureen Yellop, Sister Eithne McCarthy, Bill Walker, Alex Santana Fernandes, Vera Brennan, Kym Sidall, Tony O'Connor, Marie Wheeler,.

**Anniversaries:** Michael Smith, Brian and Margaret Hall, Patrick Cromey, Thomas Brehony, Sheila Cusack, Madeleine Walker, Ted Hosey, Patrick Roddy, Winifred Hannon, Jack Twemlow, Eileen Banks.

**We also pray:** in thanksgiving, for world peace, for the people of Southern Cameroon, for Bishop John and the restructuring of our diocese, for the house-bound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, and for a number of special intentions.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AT HOLY CROSS

- ◆ Pastoral Committee: Tue 20th March 10.30am
- ◆ Music Rehearsal: Thu 22nd March 7.00pm
- ◆ Finance Committee: Wed 21st March 7.00pm:  
*Please check before coming to the Finance meeting as this may need to be rearranged*
- ◆ Embrace Volunteers: Tue 10th April 7.00pm
- ◆ Hope in the Future: Thur 3rd May 7.00pm

### READERS THIS WEEKEND

- 6.30pm: Daniel, Mike
- 9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
- 10.30am: Jaine, Alvin

### OFFERTORY

- Collection:** 10th/11th March: See printed version
- CAFOD Family Fast: See printed version
- Challenge so far: £ 268.84

### RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collection this week or next  
(The "challenge" will continue throughout Lent)

- 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

<b>Saturday (Vigil Mass):</b>	6.30pm at Holy Cross
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	9.00am at St Matthew's 10.30am at Holy Cross (with Children's Liturgy)
<i>Tea and Coffee available only after Mass at St Matthew's this week</i>	
<b>Weekdays:</b>	See Weekday Calendar below
<b>Holydays:</b>	11.00am at Holy Cross 7.00pm at St Matthew's

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross  
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Matthew's  
6.00-6.20pm 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 19th March)

<b>Monday:</b>	8.45am Stations of the Cross at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	8.45am Stations of the Cross at <b>St Matthew's</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b> 10.00am – 12.30pm Knitting Club at St Matthew's 10.00am for 10.30 Pastoral Committee meeting, Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross 7.30pm Churches Together Choir rehearsal at St Andrew's Church, Chadwick Road, M30 0NZ
<b>Wednesday:</b>	8.45am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	8.45am Stations of the Cross at <b>St Matthew's</b> followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b> 7.00pm Music Rehearsal for Easter, Holy Cross Church
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>12.15pm Funeral Mass</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> for the late Maureen Yellop. <i>May she rest in peace</i> 6.30pm <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>Holy Cross</b> followed by <b>7pm Mass</b> and Divine Mercy
<b>Saturday (daytime):</b>	11.00am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at <b>St Matthew's</b> followed by <b>12 noon Mass</b> and Novena

## BAGS FOR LOAVES AND FISHES

Our Social Outreach Committee is making a special appeal this week for the Loaves and Fishes charity in support of the homeless. You will be offered a bag as you leave church, and we ask, please, for any **food** or **toiletries** you are willing to donate to them. Bags can be returned to the church next week. Thank you!

## EMBRACE VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers for visiting/befriending the elderly and housebound were due to meet with Sr Mary this Tuesday, to move a step closer to the project formally launching in the parish, but she is away at a funeral and has asked if we could meet up instead on **Tuesday 10th April**, 7pm at Holy Cross. The team leader from Caritas will also be present.

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS!

Palm Sunday (25th March) Time2Talk regional event at St Anthony's Centre, Trafford Park as part of YCW's MIND! The Gap national campaign on mental health. Starts at 10am but we're ok to join them after Mass. Parents will need to collect at 3pm. If you need a lift, just ask! Good Friday (30th March) Walk of Witness for Churches Together (starting at 6.30pm outside Patricroft United Reformed Church). It would be great if our young people could be represented! Friday 27th April - young people from across the Diocese will be staging a 'sleep out' to raise awareness of homelessness. Look out for more details!

## MUSIC REHEARSALS THIS WEEK

**Churches Together Choir:** Tuesday **7.30pm** at St Andrew's.  
**Parish Music group for Easter:** Thursday **7.00pm** at Holy Cross.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME PHOTOGRAPHS

Any remaining Sacramental Programme photographs—please see Fr Martin after Mass, and the board should be updated next week.

**17th/18th March 2018**

### Let us pray for:

- The parishes of St. Vincent de Paul, Over Hulton, with Father Andrew Pastore, Holy Infant and St. Anthony, Bolton, with Father William Molloy, and Guardian Angels, Bury, with Father Paul Cannon.
- We pray for their parish primary schools, and for Thornleigh College, Bolton, and the Salesian community and for the Sisters of the Cross and Passion.

**May the Lord bring forth in us a rich harvest.**



## PARISH LENTEN CHALLENGE

Details of our project can be viewed at the back of church.

## HOPE IN THE FUTURE

We will try to organise a short meeting for volunteers before our advertised date of 3rd May, to establish a formal leadership role. Please watch this space or listen for any announcements.

## CHARITY NIGHT STARRING 'PONTIAC'

John, one of our parishioners, is a member of the charitable organisation "The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes." Their local chosen charity this year is in support of the running of our own parish minibus, which helps some of our older people get to Mass who might otherwise be unable to do so. They have organised a charity night – see details on the noticeboard at the back of church – and John will personally attend Masses both at Holy Cross and St Matthew's with raffle tickets. (The raffle prize will be a basket of assorted spirits, soft drinks and glasses). John asks your support to keep the minibus running and further advance the service we can provide with it.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
<b>Parish Secretary:</b>	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)
<i>Sec. Email:</i>	secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<i>Office Email:</i>	office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<b>Parish Website:</b>	www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<b>Parish Sister:</b>	Sr Jenny (Franciscan Missionary of St Joseph)
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm) 0161 707 9537 all other times
<i>Email:</i>	srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
<b>Community Hall:</b>	Enquiries to Steve Jackson
<i>Telephone:</i>	07580 571839

### Holy Cross RC Church

Liverpool Road  
Patricroft  
Eccles  
M30 8QD

### St Matthew's RC Church

Worsley Road  
Winton  
Eccles  
M30 8BL

### Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Katrina Foster/Tara Higgins  
*Email:* safeguarding@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

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*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*