

# 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

**3rd Sunday of Lent**  
YEAR C Morning Prayer Week 3

## SECOND CHANCES FOR ALL

The fig tree in today's Gospel is a mark of God's endless patience, always ready to give another chance to those who fail to achieve their potential to do good. But it also brings a challenge to us, to reassess how we respond to the failings of other people around us. How do we behave towards them?

Human nature is so ready to see things in black and white. 'My way of doing things must always be right, and yours must be wrong if you do not agree with me'. If you "fail", part of me is ready to say "I told you so" and hold on to the self-satisfaction of knowing my way would have worked perfectly. At least, it did in theory, and who is going to prove otherwise? And though I would never admit it, isn't there a part of me that actually enjoys it when my predictions of another person's failure come true? And it's OK, because everyone else behaves like that too, whether they admit it or not. Safety in numbers!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Betty, Sylvie, Patricia, Yves, Win, Joy, Fr Devaney, Tricia, Barry, Marie, Catherine, James, Albert, Alan, John, Malcolm, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Terry, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Eunice, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Joan, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Sister Olivia, Fr Connelly, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Melanie, Bernard, Martin and Bridget and family, Margaret, Elaine, Ellen, Alec, Glenes, Mary, Stephen, Sheila, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Angela, Jackie, Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, Sheila, Martin, Joanne, Desmond, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, Harvey, Marie, John, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Sister Regina, Nijole, Josie, Stephen, Jessie, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

**Lately Dead:** Baby Eric Valois (Sunday 11am Mass), John Reynolds, John, Mary and Martin Ward, Nora Cawley, Stephen Power, Rita O'Leary, Isaac ("Johnny") Hilton, Martin Stoddart, Cath Lenihan, Robert Stansford, Jean Burke, Margaret Finegan, Martin Staddon, Mavis Walsh, Sean Fanning, Violet Freeman, Martin Roddy.

**Anniversaries:** Martin Platt, Edith Tipton, Jim Shaw, Michael Smith, Margaret ("Peggy") and Brian Hall, Maureen Yellop, Brian Platt, Sheila and John Lengden, Sheila Cusack, Ted Hosey, Thomas Brehony.

**Remembrance:** James and Agnes Devlin.

**We also pray:** for Jean, Anastasia and Julius (25th Wedding Anniversary), in thanksgiving, for world peace, for the people of Christchurch, New Zealand, for the people of Southern Cameroon, 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.

But the fact is, it's not OK. Many a sin can be made to seem acceptable, just because other people share it, but to be Christian demands standing out from the crowd and being different.

One of the greatest tributes I heard from a grieving son speaking of his father in preparation for the coming funeral related to just such a situation. "He would always support us even when we were wrong, and then help us to try again. But he would never make us do things his way."

Christ is like that with us. Gradually we will learn that his way is the best, but we do things at our own pace, and make our own mistakes along the way. That's how we learn. And that is how we must treat others too. Always giving another chance. Always ready to forgive - not seven times but seventy times seven. Let's try, this Lent, to be different from the crowd - to be truly Christian, truly forgiving, ready to do to others as we would wish them to do to us - and all this with Christ as our model and our guide.

## St JOHN PAUL II PARISH ACTIVITIES for LENT

- Lenten Challenge:** "Mary's Meals" is a global movement of people, united in the belief that no child in this world of plenty should endure a day without a meal. They can feed a child for a whole year with just £13.90. **Could we help them to feed 100 children this Lent?**
- Stations of the Cross:** These are being led on Friday evenings at Holy Cross, during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, by members of our Hope in the Future Group. **Could you join us at 6.30pm on Fridays to pray and reflect on Christ's Passion and Death, endured for our sakes?**
- Parish Reconciliation Services:** A choice of Rite II Services of Reconciliation, offering First Confessions to the Sacramental Programme children, are also open to all parishioners, with visiting priests assisting on each occasion. **Could this be a part of your spiritual preparation for Easter?** Our remaining Service: **This Wednesday (27th March), 6.30pm at Holy Cross**

## FAIRTRADE PROMOTION

We are holding a special promotion after Mass at both churches today. (A choice of Fairtrade goods is always available from the Piety Shop at Holy Cross).

## THANK YOU FROM KYLE

A number of parishioners bought a calendar last year in support of Kyle as he raised funds for a new wheelchair. He has now taken delivery of his new chair, and would like to thank everyone for their support. (It looks great in colour!)



## OFFERTORY

**Collection:** 16th/17th March: See print version  
Mary's Meals (Challenge): See print version

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

**This week:** No formal collection—the challenge goes on!  
**Next week:** CAFOD Special Collection for Cyclone Idai

• *New to one of the parishes?*  
• *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):** 6.15pm at Holy Cross  
**Sunday Morning:** 9.30am at St Mary's  
11.00am at Holy Cross  
(with Children's Liturgy throughout the academic year)  
*Refreshments served after morning Mass at Holy Cross  
and as announced at St Mary's*  
**Sunday Evening:** 6.15pm at St Mary's  
**Weekdays:** See Weekday Calendar below  
**Holydays:** As announced beforehand

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross  
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Mary's  
and 5.45-6.05pm 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 Baptism.  
Please speak to Fr Martin or Sr Jenny after Mass*

## Weekday Calendar *(Week beginning Monday 25th March)*

**Monday:** 9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Eucharistic Service  
**Tuesday:** 12 noon Mass at St Mary's  
7.00pm Choir rehearsal at Holy Cross. *New members always welcome*  
**Wednesday:** 8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass  
6.30pm Parish Reconciliation Service at Holy Cross with Fr Martin, Fr Patrick Poku and Fr Jan Klaver  
**Thursday:** 10.00am Funeral Service at Holy Cross for the late Stephen Power. *May he rest in peace*  
12 noon Mass at St Mary's  
7.00pm Hope in the Future Committee Meeting at Holy Cross (Parish Meeting Room)  
**Friday:** 6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross with Stations of the Cross  
followed by 7pm Mass and Divine Mercy  
**Saturday (daytime):** 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Mary's followed by 12 noon Mass and Novena

## OUR FORTHCOMING EASTER SERVICES

### Wednesday of Holy Week

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross, 6.30pm at Holy Cross

### Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.00pm at St Mary's  
with Watching until 9.30pm, ending with Night Prayer

### Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 11.00am at Holy Cross

Afternoon Liturgy of the Passion, 3.00pm at St Mary's

Ecumenical Walk of Witness, 6.30pm  
starting at Holy Cross, pausing at Bridgewater Baptist Church  
and ending with "Music for Good Friday" at Patricroft URC

### Holy Saturday

The Easter Vigil, 7.00pm at Holy Cross

*Refreshments will be served in the Community Hall afterwards  
Do, please, stay a while and join us!*

### Easter Sunday

Morning Masses, 9.30am at St Mary's  
and 11.00am at Holy Cross

Evening Mass 6.15pm at St Mary's

## CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Following the recent CAFOD Lenten Fast day, envelopes are still available at the back of the churches, and may be returned with your collection this week.

**23rd/24th March 2019**

This week we pray for:

- the parish of St. Marie, Haslingden, with Fr. Broadley
- the parish of St. Mary and St. Anselm, Bacup and Whitworth, with Fr. McGrane.



## MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions—where someone asks that a Mass be offered for someone who is sick, who has died, or for any other special intention—are taken very seriously. If you wish a Mass to be offered on a particular day, please speak to Fr Martin to make sure the Mass on that day is not already promised for another intention. When you request that a Mass be said, it is most helpful if the intention is written down, with any offering enclosed in an envelope. (Please note that Mass offerings are entirely voluntary). Please make it clear, in writing, what the intention is—someone sick, someone who has died recently, an anniversary, remembrance etc—it would be distressing if a name were inadvertently placed on the wrong prayer list in the newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.

## VOLUNTEER READERS AND MINISTERS

We always welcome more volunteers to read and to assist with Holy Communion at Mass. Please speak to Fr Martin, Sr Jenny, Mike, Jean or Ged if you are interested.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**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:* secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
*Office Email:* office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**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

**Parish Halls Hire:** Enquiries to Steve Jackson  
*Telephone:* 07580 571839  
*New Email:* hall@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Holy Cross RC Church**  
Liverpool Road  
Patricroft  
M30 8QD

**St Mary's RC Church**  
Oxford Street  
Eccles  
M30 0LU

**Parish Safeguarding Reps:** Katrina Foster/Tara Higgins/Ged Dale  
*Email:* safeguarding@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Schools:**  
Holy Cross and All Saints: 0161 789 4386  
St Gilbert's: 0161 789 5035  
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*