

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

Palm Sunday

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 2

HOLY WEEK

Today is Palm Sunday, when we begin the holiest week of our Christian calendar with the celebration of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem just days before the crowds turn and call for his death. This is the week without which Christianity would never have been born. It is our holiest time of the year, approaching its climax on Thursday, as we begin the solemn **East-er Triduum** - three days which, as a continuous devotion, immerse us into the very depths of our being as Christians. Today we reflect upon the events of this week 2,000 years ago as we listen to, and take part in, the great Passion reading. And so, our solemn celebrations will begin.

A famous Spiritual Hymn asks the question: "Were you there ...when they crucified my Lord? ...when they laid him in the tomb? ...when he rose from out the tomb?" What can we do today, so that in our hearts we are, indeed, "there" at these key moments of our Salvation History? (Or how readily might we simply say "no" because we have better things to do?) Here's what we are offering, at Holy Cross church:

On **Holy Thursday (7pm)**, we sit with the Disciples at the Last Supper, witnessing the gift of the Eucharist as though for the first time. And after Mass, we watch with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament for a short time of silent prayer and reflection until 9.30pm, for those who wish to stay. We will conclude with Night Prayer. *Were you there, when He gave himself in bread and wine? Were you there in the Garden of Tears? Will you be here on Holy Thursday?*

On **Good Friday (3pm)**, (a day of fasting and abstinence), the story resumes as we call to mind Jesus's arrest, his trial under Pontius Pilate, the Way of the Cross and his death for us all. *Were you there when they Crucified our Lord? Will you be here on Good Friday?*

Then, on **Saturday night (7pm)**, (not the usual 6.30 Mass time), we gather around the Paschal (Easter) fire. In perhaps the rich-

est and most powerfully symbolic service of the year, we trace our Salvation history and witness the Resurrection - that central Truth of our Faith, which gives us hope in every trial. *Were you there, when he rose from out the tomb? Will you be here on Saturday night?* During the Vigil, two adult members of our Community will be Baptised and received into full Communion with us. Then, our Triduum celebration will conclude in the Community Hall in party mood, as we join in a social celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Please do stay a while! (There will also be, of course, the usual Sunday morning Masses, 9am at St Matthew's and 10.30am at Holy Cross). For those who use taxis, please be aware that the Easter Vigil is *much more* than an evening Mass, and therefore it will take rather longer.

Please, keep watch with the Lord at these key moments of our salvation history. Join us, if you possibly can.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AT HOLY CROSS

- ◆ Hope in the Future: **Wednesday 4th April** 7.00pm
- ◆ Embrace Volunteers: **Tuesday 24th April** 7.00pm
- ◆ Social Outreach Committee **Thursday 3rd May** 7.00pm

Dates in bold type are corrected or changed from last week

YOUTH EVENTS

TODAY 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

Parish Music group for Easter: Monday 7.00pm at Holy Cross.
Churches Together Choir: Wednesday 8.15pm at Holy Cross.

PARISH LENTEN CHALLENGE

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

BAGS FOR LOAVES AND FISHES

Bags (given out last week) with food or toiletries for the homeless can be left at both churches. Thank you!

READERS THIS WEEKEND

- 6.30pm:** Arranged individually
- 9.00am:** Please log in or see list in church
- 10.30am:** Arranged individually

OFFERTORY

- Collection:** 17th/18th March: See printed version
Challenge will be updated next week

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Joe, 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.

Latently Dead: Jim Shaw, Monica Nazareth, Walter Lobo, Paula Wilson, Winifred Stanway, Maureen Yellop, Sister Eithne McCarthy, Bill Walker, Alex Santana Fernandes.

Anniversaries: Doris Yates, Winifred and Bill Hampton, Michael Smith, Brian and Margaret Hall, Patrick Cromey, Thomas Brehony, Sheila Cusack, Madeleine Walker, Ted Hosey.

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 housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, and for a number of special intentions.

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 available only after Mass at St Matthew's this week
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: 11.00-11.50am 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

Holy Week Calendar

Monday: 8.45am Stations of the Cross at **Holy Cross** followed by **9.15am Mass**
7.00pm Music Rehearsal for Easter
Tuesday: 8.45am Stations of the Cross at **St Matthew's** followed by **9.15am Mass**
10.00am Church cleaning at Holy Cross—all volunteers welcome!
Wednesday: **11.00am Chrism Mass at Salford Cathedral**—if you would like to go, please speak to Fr Martin
7.30pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross
8.15pm Churches Together Choir rehearsal, for Good Friday

The Easter Triduum



Holy Thursday

* Mass of the Lord's Supper *

7pm at Holy Cross

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 11am at St Matthew's

* Afternoon Liturgy of the Passion *

3pm at Holy Cross



Ecumenical Walk of Witness, starts 6.30pm from Patricroft URC, Shakespeare Crescent, calling at St Mary's RC Church and ending with a concert of Spiritual Music at St Andrew's, Chadwick Road, starting at about 7.30pm

Holy Saturday

Ceremony of Food Blessing for the Polish Community—10.00am at Holy Cross

* The Easter Vigil *

7pm at Holy Cross

with refreshments and celebration in the Community Hall afterwards

Easter Morning

Usual Mass times at both Churches

FLOWER PREPARATIONS AT HOLY CROSS

Maureen Crowley would appreciate any offers of assistance with the Easter flowers on Thursday this week at 10.00am. Volunteer cleaners are also welcome on Tuesday at 10am. Thank you.

PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI

The Manchester Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order are taking a pilgrimage to Assisi on 9th-14th October. If you would like to go, see noticeboard for details or contact Christine—details available via the church.

PHONE FOUND IN HOLY CROSS CAR PARK

The phone was found two weeks ago. If you think it is yours, please telephone St Gilbert's school on 0161 789 5030 and ask for Mrs Darcy.

24th/25th March 2018

During this coming week, let us pray for:

- The parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Anne, Blackburn, with Father James McCartney, and the parishes of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and Holy Family, Blackburn, with Father Gerard Barry and Father Frank Mulgrew and for the Marist Fathers.
- We pray for their parish primary schools, Our Lady and St. John's High School and the chaplaincy to the Royal Blackburn Hospital and Blackburn Hospice.

May the Lord stay with us on our journey.



CHRISM MASS TICKETS FOR WEDNESDAY

Tickets are available—please speak to Fr Martin after Mass.

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: Mrs Marie Twemlow
Telephone: 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)
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

Community Hall: Enquiries to Steve Jackson
Telephone: 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