

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

4th Sunday of Easter

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 4

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Sometimes we think of Christian "vocation" in the narrower sense of a call to serve God in the priesthood or religious life. Or we might look to the wards of Salford Royal Hospital, witnessing the absolute dedication of the staff there, and recognise their "call" - their vocation to service, that they carry out so well.

And yet it is certain that each one of us has our own vocation in life. In Baptism we were called, and throughout our lives that call is renewed, to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and to respond to his words, using our God-given talents for the good of his Kingdom here on earth, and to lead others towards the fulfilment of that Kingdom in Heaven.

How often do we think of God's Will as we plan out our own futures, or as we assist our young people in planning for theirs? How readily can we stand out from the crowd, and recognise that the worldly call to "be successful" for ourselves, and to make money, is not the be-all and end-all of our labours? We live in a world of stress and so often feel compelled to keep up with the pace - yet too easily we become less caring, less Christ-like, less human as a result.

The Good Shepherd calls us to serve, and promises to be with us as we try, however often we may fail in our efforts to respond. Following him demands of us a different set of priorities. Being satisfied with enough, and not rushing

to seek more. Asking ourselves what we can give, rather than what we can get. Looking towards the needs of others, and setting aside some of those selfish worries that are so trivial when we see the depth of human need that enfolds our planet. It demands that we rise above our bitter anger when we feel wronged, and that we take real care not to wrong one another. It demands an honest sharing in God's forgiveness and healing.

Yet, when we look upon those who selflessly serve, we do not see people burdened by the troubles they share - rather they are enriched, fulfilled, made more human by the experience.

So, what is your vocation in life? What is the vocation of your child or grandchild? The honest answer is probably: "I do not know." Responding to God's call is not a matter of listening one day, and then marching on alone. If God is with us, our vocation might only be given to us a little at a time, so as not to over-face us. Let us pray for the grace to listen to those little revisions along the way, and to be open to plans beyond the job adverts in the newspapers. God is all around us. Let us seek his face especially in the poor and needy, and let us serve him with joy.

And for our young - where do they begin? Let the agenda be truly open, to consider priesthood, religious life, married life, service of the developing world, being healers or peacemakers, being educators or protectors... Anywhere God's voice may lead, let them, and all of us, be ready to respond, in love.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Ellen, Sr Cecily, Caroline, Lynne, 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, 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, Stephen, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: Andrew Neilan, Paddy McLernon, Roisin Dunne, Janet Thompson, Eileen Ward, Pauline Edwards, Beatrice Farrington, Mr Gilbert, Alice Glynn.

Anniversaries: Christopher Royle, Olive Pennington, Fr George Dalston, Tessie McElhinney, William Cusack, Anne and Clifford Preston, Rita Richardson, John Kenney, Raymond Evans, Maureen Duffy.

Remembrance: Charles, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, Mary Gribbin, Mary Smith.

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.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS AT HOLY CROSS

- Embrace - This Tuesday (24th April) at Holy Cross
- Social Outreach Committee - to be rearranged
- Hope in the Future - Wednesday 2nd May, 7.00pm

BAPTISMS FOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT YET BAPTISED

- 29th April, 9am Mass at St Matthew's
- 13th May, 10.30am Mass at Holy Cross

We can be flexible on these dates—Please speak to Fr Martin and, importantly, collect a form for registration. Thank you.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Logan, Moya
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Paul

OFFERTORY

Collection: 7th/8th April See print version
Lenten Challenge total: £ 692.61 Thank you!

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Ecclesiastical Education Fund (Priests' Training)
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)
<i>Tea and Coffee available only after Mass at St Matthew's this week</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: 11.00-11.50am 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 23rd April)*

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	9.15am Mass at St Gilbert's School with Year 4. All welcome 10.15am – 12.30pm Knitting Club at St Matthew's 7.00pm "Embrace" meeting for all who are involved/interested – Meeting Room at Holy Cross
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Thursday:	9.30am Mass at Holy Cross and All Saints' School with Year 5. All welcome
Friday:	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

PARISH LENTEN CHALLENGE

Thank you to all who supported our Lenten project to sponsor the training of priests in the developing world. In our churches we raised a total of £376.61, and the wonderful efforts of our children at Holy Cross and All Saints' School raised a further £316. The grand total of £692.61 will be sent off to 'Missio' (the Pope's charity) and will pay for the training of one student priest for a year and contribute also to the training of another. Thank you again for your support.

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL

As we celebrate and encourage the tremendous work that goes on in all of our schools, special congratulations go to Holy Cross and All Saints on their recent Ofsted inspection. The inspector found a "positive and welcoming school" where "the school's faith ethos underpins its work." Judging the school to be "Good" the report praises the "concerted action" that is being undertaken to improve further. Well done!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHILDREN READ?

Holy Cross and All Saints' school is seeking volunteers from the parish to help the children with their reading. The school will fund the necessary DBS checks, and reading times can be flexible.

EMBRACE MEETING

...**this Tuesday** (24th April) at 7pm. All who are interested are welcome to attend, whether you have received the formal training or not. "Embrace" is one of our social outreach projects, working with a pilot scheme in the Diocese with Caritas, where we seek to befriend and support the elderly who might be feeling lonely or neglected. As a part of Pope Francis' call to be Missionary parishes, this is one of the ways in which we can put our mission into action.

21st/22nd April 2018

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the people of the parishes of:



- St. Joseph's, Reddish, with Fr. Philip Caldwell, their parish priest.
- Holy Family, Denton, with Fr. Christopher Dawson, their parish priest.
- We pray for the primary schools that serve these parishes .

We pray that the Lord will raise up in our Diocese men to serve him as priests and as deacons .

YOUTH UPDATES

Some of our young people are raising awareness of homelessness at The Little Sleepout on Friday 27th April. There will be a **sponsor sheet** at the back of Church if you would like to donate to Caritas. Thank you for your support.

ALSO: Young people are invited to an Impact training day on Saturday 28th April focusing upon YCW's national campaign on mental health. This will be a great opportunity to hear what other youth groups are doing and what we could do in our parish. The day starts at 2pm and ends with Mass at 5:30. Ask Rachel if you need a lift or meet there: St Monica's RC Church, Woodsend Road South, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6QB.

ALTERATIONS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

As was reported some time ago, there are areas at the church which are not fully compliant with current legislation, and where we could, in making the essential adjustments, also improve the facilities we offer to all of our people. Plans have now been presented by architects appointed by the Diocese, and the parish Finance Committee is requesting approval from the Diocesan Trustees to go out to tender for the works. Watch this space for more information!

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:	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.
Parish Secretary:	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
Parish Website:	www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Parish Sister:	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
Community Hall:	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