



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

Divine Mercy Sunday

Daily Prayer Week 2

POPE FRANCIS

It was with great sadness that we heard, on Easter Monday, of the death of our Holy Father Pope Francis and yet, what better time for him to be called home to his Heavenly Father and ours, than the morning after imparting his Easter blessing upon the world? By the time you receive this newsletter, Francis's funeral will already have taken place in Rome, but the official period of mourning continues and this gives us the opportunity to celebrate his life, and to pray for him, in a special Memorial Mass in our parish at Holy Cross Church on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Do, please, join us if you can.

The diocese has a special page on its website devoted to Pope Francis, and the opportunity will be found there to sign Books of Condolence. Please visit [Following the death of Pope Francis - Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford](#).

Thank you to those who joined us for our simple Prayer Vigil on Friday evening, the day before the funeral in Rome. Unfortunately, the only way we could advertise this was by email and by word of mouth so we appreciate some of you may not have been aware of this.

THE GIFT OF FAITH

Thomas, like all of the disciples, is filled with grief at the execution of his Lord and Master. How can life ever be the same again? He is a changed man from having met and travelled with Jesus, but now Jesus is gone. Somehow, he must come to terms and move on. They all must.

Today he comes back to the room where his friends have locked themselves in. But the mood is changed—sadness has given way to a strange story that Jesus is not dead after all. He has appeared to them! Thomas wonders what they have been doing in his absence. Why concoct a story like this? Are they just trying to avoid the truth? Are they creating an escape for themselves from their self-inflicted captivity, a story to bring them back out into the world? A great story it might be, but Thomas cannot let himself be dragged along. Honesty forces him to hold back—the story is just too unbelievable. Unless the evidence is presented beyond doubt, his loyalty to the group of friends simply will not stretch so far.

It should hardly surprise us—after all, the other disciples had come to believe only when they saw with their eyes, so why should Thomas be any different?

But Jesus comes again, and this time Thomas is with them. Now he sees, and he knows that the Resurrection is true—it is not an elaborate story, but simple fact. Now at last he can share in his friends' joy.

But what of us today? Are we expected to be greater people than the apostles themselves, to believe without having seen with our eyes? Far from it. "Receive the Holy Spirit" Jesus says as he breathes on them in the upper room. And in our Baptism too—"Receive the Holy Spirit." That same Spirit gives us the Faith to overcome our lack of vision because, as the Scriptures tell us, the Spirit is Truth.

Our Faith is a gift from God, given to us through the Holy Spirit. But, like the apostles, once we have received the gift we can no longer lock ourselves away and keep it to ourselves. A Faith that is kept private, a "personal Faith" that is not talked about, will wither and die. We must share our joy in the Resurrection of Christ. As we meet in Church to nurture and strengthen our Faith by the sharing of God's Word and the Eucharist, so let us go forth with joy. As one of our dismissals at Mass puts it: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!"

CHALLENGE COLLECTION for MARY'S MEALS

Our total for Mary's Meals so far stands at £4,865.23 including a further £506 contributed from Holy Cross and All Saints' primary School. We are now making arrangements with the charity to have a specific total to be able to support a single school for an entire year—more on this next week! Thank you for all your support.

JUBILEE PRAYER

Please use the Jubilee Prayer whenever you can:



Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us in
your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into
tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a
new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

JUBILEE BOOKS available from our Piety Shops

Two books are available from the Piety Shop, both written by Mgr John Allen, to coincide with this Jubilee Year. The first, "A Popular History of the Salford Diocese" (£20) traces the history of the great family of God in our area over many generations. The second, "Pilgrims of Hope—Out and About in the Salford Diocese" (£9) ties in directly with the Jubilee theme and describes tours that can be made by car or on foot to delve more deeply into our rich heritage. Eccles features in both books! All proceeds from the sales go to Caritas, Diocese of Salford, so they represent a great read for a great cause!

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

...for Y7,8,9, led by Bishop John Arnold from 20th-22nd June 2025. See flyers for more information.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: We will keep the Mary's Meals challenge open for now
Next week: SVP monthly collection

PARISH FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The next monthly prize draw will take place on Sunday May 4th after the 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- We are holding a parish afternoon tea to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Saturday 10th May from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in Holy Cross community hall. Tickets are £3.00 and all refreshments are provided. Tickets are on sale after all Masses.
- The parish summer fair will be held on Saturday July 5th.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Joan, Michael, Patrick, Pauline, Jessie, Ifeoma, Andrew, Jill, Freya, Lee, Edna, Eileen, Peter, Aaron (age 14), Mark, Mary, Alan, Mina, Stephen, Charlie (age 10), Margaret, Eileen, Elaine, Julie, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Pope Francis, Josephine Doherty, Mary Byrne, Dave Moore, Peter Worsley, Pauline Butler, Martin Cale, John.

Anniversaries: Helen Shannon, Bernard Collins, Catherine (Kitty) Mallinson, Raymond Evans, James Maguire, Christopher Royle, Patrick Nash, Elizabeth Royle (Birthday Anniv), Anthony Nash (Birthday Anniv), Pierce Carlos, Paul, David and Tommy Green and Fr John McCormack (Sunday's 9.30am Mass), Fintan Maguire, Michael Shannon, Maureen Duffy, Doris Yates, Winifred and Bill Hampton.

Remembrance: Mary and Frank Gribbin, Josephine, Sheila and George Devlin, Monica Potter, Sheila Devlin, Mary and Edward Kelly.

We also pray for: Kirby (18th Birthday). We also pray for Mr & Mrs Ryan, for all of our parish schools, The Worsley FMSJ Sisters in thanksgiving, the people of Myanmar devastated by the earthquake there, the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars and fragile peace, for other countries suffering unrest, for migrants and refugees, for children suffering from poverty, for the victims of modern slavery, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for Michael Wheeler, Rebecca Long-Bailey and all who serve us in Westminster, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for Fr Stanto and the Syro-Malabar community, and for each of our schools. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout these troubled times, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers, and for a number of special intentions.

USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning: 9.30am at St Mary's
11.15am at Holy Cross
Children's Liturgy at most 11.15am Masses
Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's each week
and as announced after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
Sunday Evening: 6.30pm at St Mary's
Weekdays: See Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are *usually* available during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays and Saturdays.
Please check the calendar below

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 refer to the website for further information

Calendar for This Week

Divine Mercy Sunday Saturday 26th Apr: Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) *
Sunday 27th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's * **Livestreamed**

Monday 28th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
Tuesday 29th: 11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Pauline Butler—*May she rest in peace*
7.00pm Special Memorial Mass at Holy Cross for Pope Francis

Wednesday 30th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

St Joseph the Worker Thursday 1st May: 11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Mary Byrne—*May she rest in peace* *
Friday 2nd: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (with Confessions available)
followed by: 7.00pm Benediction and Mass at Holy Cross *
Saturday 3rd: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with Confessions available)
followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, at St Mary's
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *

3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday 4th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

Saturday's Vigil Mass will continue to be available on the [Sunday Mass](#) page of our website on Sunday and throughout the week, and on our [Facebook Page](#). It can also be viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

MAY SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

Next weekend at our Saturday evening and Sunday Masses (at both churches) we will invite the children to join a procession at the start of Mass to the statue of Our Lady, marking the beginning of her month of May. Flowers will be carried in the processions and placed around the statues. If possible, if you have children with you next weekend, please could you provide them with a flower to carry in the procession? Thank you!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,824.20. The retiring collection raised £116.40 for the Christians of the Holy land and the ongoing challenge collection for Mary's Meals has risen to £4,865.23 so far. Thank you also to all those who donate to the parish by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices at the back of both Churches. Scan the QR Code, right, to donate to the parish. Thank you!



CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of St Joseph, Todmorden, for Fr Allan Swift, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

ITEM FOUND

A child's electrical device has been found in the hall toilets at Holy Cross. If you are missing such an item, please give a suitable description to the office and we will be happy to return it.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. Please help us to keep them safe at all times. Thank you!

A HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

The "default" position for kneelers in both churches is DOWN. If you need to raise them to move into or out of the bench, please ensure they are then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall. If you need help to adjust a kneeler, please speak to one of the stewards who will be happy to assist you.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS *(Please note that email addresses below can NOT be clicked as links)*

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: rosemarie.twemlow@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Newsletter: newsletter@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Parish Website: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Facebook: [@ourparishcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)

Parish Halls Hire: Enquiries to Steve Jackson, Hall Manager
Telephone: 07580 571839—*please leave a voicemail*
Email: hall@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Holy Cross RC Church
370 Liverpool Road
Patricroft
M30 8QD

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

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Marie Twemlow/Anna Raynor/Ged Dale
Email: safeguarding@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Schools:
Holy Cross and All Saints: 0161 789 4386
St Gilbert's: 0161 921 1675 *(note, new number)*
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