



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

7th
Sunday of
Easter

Daily
Prayer
Week 3

St STEPHEN, the FIRST MARTYR

Today we hear of the meeting of Stephen with Saul – the first martyr with the last apostle.

Stephen has been introduced as a man full of Faith, one of seven chosen by the apostles to serve the needs of the poor after a dispute had arisen between the Greek speaking Jewish converts and the Hebrew converts. The Greeks had felt their widows were being neglected in favour of the Hebrew widows, so these seven "Deacons" were chosen to ensure that all were treated with equal fairness, consideration and love.

But now, there is another dispute. This time, Stephen finds himself accused by other Greek speaking Jews of preaching against the Temple and against the old Law. Facing his accusers, he describes a vision of Heaven thrown open, with Jesus at the right hand of God himself. At this, the Jews will listen no more, and stone him for blasphemy, while Saul looks on, guarding the coats of those who carry out the execution.

Could Saul have been unaffected by what he witnessed

today? As he heard Stephen copy the example of Jesus his Lord, forgiving those who put him to death, could he be unmoved? And is this, perhaps, the very persecution of which he finds himself accused on the road to Damascus, when the challenge of Jesus changes his life forever?

If Stephen had met his executioners with accusation and hatred, Saul's resolve in his chosen path of persecution would surely have been strengthened – but the power of forgiveness instead, part of God's plan, sows seeds of a change of heart. Could we, today, change the world by forgiving our enemies in Jesus's name? Could we pray with sincerity for those who would do us harm? For it is in such forgiveness that there lies a power greater than us all.

RELAUNCH of SUNDAY EVENING MASS NEXT WEEK

Much has changed since we last had a Sunday evening Mass in this parish, at St Mary's Church. We have to ask ourselves "Is there still a demand for a Sunday evening Mass?" We are not certain, but there is perhaps only one way to find out. **And so**, supported by Fr John Pulinthanath and also (for one Mass each month) by Fr Nicholas Kumi of the Spiritans, we now propose to relaunch the Sunday evening Mass at St Mary's **NEXT SUNDAY, (Pentecost, 5th June), at 6.30pm.** (The new time is to fit in with the Syro-Malabar Mass in the church on Sunday afternoons). Please spread the word, particularly amongst any hospital workers who might once again find this helpful before or after their shifts. (And please ensure you tell people the date we are planning to restart—we have already had people on the doorstep thinking we had already begun).

PENTECOST SUNDAY NEXT WEEK!

The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red—could we demonstrate our Catholic identity on this, the Church's Birthday, by **all wearing something red?** (Refreshments available after Sunday's Masses)

On Pentecost Sunday we will also be enrolling some of our older Altar Servers in the Guild of St Stephen and, at both Sunday Masses, we will present certificates to the young people who were Confirmed at Salford Cathedral recently. Please keep all of our children and young people in your prayers.

JUNE—Month of the SACRED HEART

Following discussion at the most recent Hope in the Future Committee meeting, we will mark this month with recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the Holy Hour on Fridays.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILIES

Thank you to all who were able to attend the meeting on Thursday. We did appreciate that not everyone would be able to come in person so, as promised, the meeting was recorded, and can be found on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgJ-0FGFO2o>

Fr Martin has also edited a video for the children, originally prepared in 2020 but which hopefully may still be useful. This can be found on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmFgsKY-9Dc>

And finally, the handout from Thursday evening can be viewed and downloaded [HERE](#), and the Mass sheet (adapted from LiturgyTools.net) can be found [HERE](#).

Please talk to your child about the Sacrament and use these resources with them.

Thank you for your continued support, and we all wish the children a joyful, Spirit-filled experience on their First Communion day.

YOUTH GROUP

It was wonderful to see so many of our young teens at Sr Anna's youth meeting on Monday last week. Please pray that this will go from strength to strength.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Nancy, Andy, John, Alistair, Maureen, Laurisa, Beisha, Siobhan, Vinny, Ira, Charlotte, Vanessa, Benjamin, Sr Lucy, Wieslaw, Kevin, Susan, Mat and Amelia, David, Jimmy, Bridget, Mark, Tom, Bridie, Maureen, Peggy, Bridget, Peter, Rifa, Barbara, Edna, Ann-Marie, Liz, Stephen, Elizabeth, Irene, Shane, Sidney, Margaret, Carole, Marjorie, Anne, Agnes, Alan, Margaret, Doreen, Peter, Ann, Paul, Allan, Gwyneth, Karen, Kenneth, Kathleen, Pat, Helen, Bridget, Sara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Sarah, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick, David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, Paul, Maureen, Pat, David, Terry, Betty, Kathleen, Stanley, Catherine, James, Alan, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Fr Connelly, Jean, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Elaine, Ellen, Glenes, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Martin, Joanne, John, Janice, Bill, John, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, Louise, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Nicola, Don, Nijole, Roger Bryan, Ken, Stephen, Mildred.

Lately Dead: Terry Flanagan, Greta Flynn, Angela Paffett, Malcolm Ringrow, Mary Kelly, Kevin McTiernan, Damien Williams, Martin Gillan, Patrick Nash.

Anniversaries: Margaret McElduff, Victims of the Manchester Arena Bombing, Nelly Tighe, Lillian Peters, May Mellins, George and the late Sheila (62nd Wedding Anniversary), Patricia Mulligan, Renée Fernandes.

Remembrance: Elizabeth and Christopher Royle, Sonny Shannon.

We also pray: for all those affected by the Robb Elementary School shootings in Texas, for Ujitha and Gina, for Marie and her daughter (birthday blessings), for Lyndsay, for Carolyn, for migrants, for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the war there, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for the Syro-Malabar community, for each of our schools, and for our Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation families. 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 Liturgies are currently suspended
Refreshments after Masses will resume shortly*

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

* Livestreamed

	Saturday 28th May:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
<i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>	Sunday 29th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross	
	Monday 30th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>	<i>A regular schedule of weekday Masses at St Mary's will be developed soon, now that our works are almost complete</i>
<i>The Visitation</i>	Tuesday 31st:	10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
	Wednesday 1st June:	10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
<i>Ugandan Martyrs</i>	Thursday 2nd:	10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
	Friday 3rd:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (with Confessions available) 6.30pm Divine Mercy, for the month of June * 7.00pm Mass, all at Holy Cross *	
	Saturday 4th:	12 noon Mass at St Mary's following a Holy Hour from 11.00am (with Confessions) 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
PENTECOST SUNDAY	Sunday 5th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 1.30pm Jubilee Picnic in the grounds of Holy Cross Church 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's , restarting today	

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 viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

JUBILEE PICNIC

Next Sunday, Pentecost, (5th June), we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a parish picnic, using the lawns along the side of Holy Cross Church at 1.30pm. If it is raining we will hold the event in the hall. Please bring your own picnic and drink (tea and coffee will be available) also blankets and chairs. If you have any spare chairs please bring them in case they are needed. There will be a Jubilee Quiz and music as well. And—please don't read "at Holy Cross" and think it's just for one end of the parish. It's for everyone, using the best available space we have at this time, in the grounds of our Parish Church. Please, come, join us and enjoy!

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £923.76, thank you. And thank you also to all those who donate by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless device at the back of Holy Cross Church.

Next week we will hold a retiring collection for World Communications—financing important work in communications, news and evangelisation and, in particular, funding the media office at the secretariat of the Bishops' Conference.

BAPTISMS

Please pray for Abiola, Oluwatooni, Charlie and Evie who were Baptised in the parish last week.

CYCLE of PRAYER



We pray this week, throughout the diocese

for the people of the parish of St Catherine of Siena, Didsbury for Fr John Hitchen, their parish priest, and for the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph. We pray for their parish primary school, The Barlow High School, and for Francis House Children's Hospice. May they be completely one, so that the world might believe in Jesus.

SATURDAY HOLY HOUR and MIDDAY MASS

From **next Saturday** (4th June) we will move the 11am Holy Hour (with Confessions available) and Midday Mass back to St Mary's, which means it will no longer be possible for this particular Service to be livestreamed. We will consider other weekday Masses at the next Hope in the Future meeting.

MONTHLY DRAW

We need, now, to look seriously at ways of raising funds to repay the diocesan loan of approximately £100,000 on the works at St Mary's. As a start, our new monthly draw will therefore commence **this Wednesday**, June 1st. If you are interested and have not yet submitted your form, please place it in the box in the church foyer. (More forms are still available at the back of church). Thank 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: secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Office Email: office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

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

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
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 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