

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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR B

Morning Prayer Week 3

CALLED TO BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Amos, the prophet of our first Reading today, is yet another example of God's strange choices. We are used to fishermen and tax collectors being called by Jesus to a new mission in God's name, but here we find the idea was not new to the time of Our Lord. It is about the eighth century BC, and we see Amos the farmer, going about his work in a village close to Bethlehem in Judaea. But God has other plans for him. Far away, in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, the people have grown rich and prosperous out of their exploitation of the poor and their disregard for honesty and integrity. Things must change, but their professional priests, prophets and judges are themselves corrupt, and there is no one left to proclaim the true Word of God.

So God makes his calling known to Amos, who finds himself driven onwards into the foreign territory of the North, to preach and to challenge, to disturb the established order and to make himself as unpopular as he can. He heads straight for the Royal Shrine at Bethel, to speak out into the heart of the corruption. It is not surprising then, that the priest of that place tries to send him home. Prophets should be loyal to the king - they should preach what the faithful subjects want to hear. Who is this Judaeian farmer to sow the seeds of unrest? But Amos gets both his mission and his

eloquence from one greater than the unjust King of Israel. He speaks with the power and the authority of God himself, and no earthly authority will silence the message he brings.

Amos knows his mission cannot be an easy one. Challenging a way of life that preserves the status of the powerful and corrupt can only make friends of the weak and the voiceless, those with no power to support him.

This is the harsh reality, too, facing the disciples in today's Gospel, as Jesus sends them out in pairs to preach the Good News to the people and the powers of their day. And as Christians it is a difficulty we too must face - we cannot always preach what others want to hear, and we cannot condone our nation's life of luxury if it is built upon the exploitation of our poorer neighbours.

More and more the Churches of the world stand in the forefront of fair trade campaigns - and little by little we can see that the message is being heard. But we still have such a long way to go. Let us pray for the Grace to take ever more seriously our Christian calling to make a difference by our way of life. And let us pray, too, that the children who complete the Sacramental Programme today may, as they continue to grow in Faith, combine their relationship with God with that enthusiasm of youth which can be an example to us all in searching for new possibilities - unencumbered by the defeatist notion that "it looks too difficult so it's not worth trying."

Each of us may be as insignificant as Amos on his village farm, or as the fishermen, tax collectors and others called by Jesus and sent out on their mission in God's name. But each of us too, members of his Church, is God's unlikely choice of "Missionary Disciple" sent out to witness in the world of today.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CERTIFICATES

...will be presented at all Masses today. Please continue to keep the children and their families in your prayers as they move forward in their journey of Faith.

The photograph of each group, taken at the end of the First Communion Masses, is available and can be viewed and ordered at the back of church at £2.00 for the A4 size or £1.00 for a smaller 7x5" print. Please speak to Fr Martin. Orders placed so far are all available for collection.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Fleur, Ellen, Alec, Glenes, Mary, Stephen, Sheila, Sr Cecily, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, David, Angela, Jackie, Christopher and Clifford, Mary, Gemma, Rosa, John, Sheila, 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: Colin Ballantyne, Maureen Jackson, Eric McAvoy, Freda Jones, James McCusker, Rita Mary Joyce, Patrick McLernon.

Anniversaries: Marie Payne, Pat Cusack, Brian Slatyer, Christine Galligan, Stuart Murphy, Bernard Chinery, Bernard Crowley, Vera Kerr, Albert Yates.

Remembrance: William and Lilian Hindley, Ann Geeney, Pat Ryan, Fahy, McDonnell and Kirk families.

We also pray: in thanksgiving for a silver wedding, for our First Communion children and families, 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.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Alan, Michael
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Linta, Kevin

OFFERTORY

Collection: Please see printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week
(Sorry for the errors here last week)
Next week: Bring and Buy Sale for Fr John Bashabora
28th/29th: Apostleship of the Sea *(deferred from last 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 16th July)

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	10.15am – 12.30pm Knitting Club at St Matthew's 2.00pm End of Year Mass at St Gilbert's School. All welcome
Wednesday:	9.30am End of Year Mass at Holy Cross and All Saints' School. All Welcome
Thursday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass (Please note change of venue) The Pastoral Committee Pilgrimage to Stoneyhurst will depart after Mass
Friday:	6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 7pm Mass and Divine Mercy
Saturday (day):	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Matthew's followed by 12 noon Service and Novena

BRING AND BUY FOR Fr BASHABORA

The annual Bring and Buy in aid of Fr John Bashabora's orphans in Uganda will take place after all Masses **next weekend**. Boxes are at the back of both churches for donations of any unwanted gifts and any home-made and bought cakes that could be sold on the day. Thank you! Your support makes a massive difference to the lives of the children.

SPONSORED YOUTH WALK

We'll be walking the Roe Green Loopline next Saturday (21st July) to raise money for CAFOD. Meet at the Duke's Drive entrance in Monton at 2pm if you'd like to join us and find out more about the parish's Impact Group. Impact is usually for 11-17 year-olds but this event is open to all young people who have made their First Holy Communion. Hope to see you there! **Please see Rachel (our Youth Rep) for a letter with more details.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Fr Ted will be away on holiday from next Sunday, so today (Sunday) is our last Children's Liturgy until after the summer. Thank you to all his helpers!

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Richard would like to thank everyone who kindly sponsored him on his recent "Hell on the Fell" run. He completed the six miles in 56 minutes in what was a very enjoyable and rewarding evening. All the proceeds will be sent to "Aid to the Church in Need".

ADOREMUS—EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Thank you to all those who have signed up for the National Eucharistic Congress in September. It promises to be a wonderful experience.

14th 15th July 2018

This week in our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the people of:



- The parish of St. Mary, the Hidden Gem, with Mgr Kay and Fr. Horne
- St. Augustine's and St. Wilfrid's primary school
- The Jesuit community at the Holy Name, Manchester with the Manchester University Chaplaincy
- The Daughters of Charity
- The Chaplaincy to the Manchester Hospitals.

May they be a beacon of hope to the communities they serve.

Fr SOPHRONIUS VISITING

Thank you for all your donations, via the boxes at the back of Church, for Fr Sophronius Ssajabe and the schoolchildren he supports. He is now with us for the first part of his summer stay in England, and has been assured of a warm welcome!

KYLE'S WHEELCHAIR

As reported last week, Kyle relies totally upon his wheelchair for mobility, and his current chair is now prone to breaking down. **Thank you** to those who have placed orders for his "Friend to the Stars" (Sept 2018-Dec 2019) Calendar, or who have offered donations to help him raise the approx £10,000 he needs for a replacement. Orders will be fulfilled as soon as possible.

JOB VACANCY AT ST GILBERT'S

A Welfare Assistant is sought, 7.5 hours per week, term time only, from September. Please contact the school on Monday (16th July) for an application form. (Contact details below).

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:	Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	martin.collins@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-4pm)
<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