



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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Daily Prayer Week 3

JUNIOR RECEPTION DAY

A warm welcome on Sunday morning at Holy Cross to the final group of children from this year's Junior Reception Programme and to their parents, families and friends as they, after several months of careful preparation, enter into full membership of our Catholic Church family with the reception of all three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Canon Law requires that children aged between 7 and 14 cannot be baptised unless these other Sacraments are also conferred.

For family members and guests, you will appreciate that this is a special time for the children, and we are sure you will wish to respect the solemnity of the occasion. Please allow them every opportunity to experience the presence of God in all of these Sacraments, through appropriate silence during the Mass. For the same reason, please refrain from all photography and videoing until after the ceremony is over—there will be plenty of opportunity to take photographs then. And please take part in the singing and the responses as best you can! Thank you.

Please continue to keep all of our Sacramental Programme children and their families in your prayers.

LOYALTY TO LOVE

What is it that makes us identifiable as Catholic Christians, rather than Protestant Christians, Jews, Moslems, Hindus or any other Religious group? Is it our Mass on Sundays and Saturday evenings? Is it the way we have our own schools to support the Catholic upbringing of our children? Is it our abstinence from meat on Fridays? (And yes, we are expected to do this or adapt it to another staple food if we are vegetarian/vegan). Is it the grand celebrations of First Holy Communion? The list could go on and on. For any organisation, religious or otherwise, beliefs and practices identify members, who seek to be as loyal as they can to that identity, so as to belong and feel at home. But how far should that loyalty go?

In today's Gospel, Jesus presents a challenge to the people of his day, and to us. In the story of the Good Samaritan, his hearers will expect the hero of the story to be, perhaps, an ordinary Jew—after the Priest and the Levite have let the side down. The last person they would expect is a Samaritan. Why? As St John tells us, Jews did not associate with Samaritans. During the long time of exile, some Northern Jews had remained and intermarried with

the local population and, when the Jews of the south returned from exile, they looked on the northern "remainders" as second-class citizens. They were not allowed to help rebuild the Temple, so they established their own forms and places of worship instead—and then the division was complete. Now Jesus asks the people to see them as neighbours! But they are different—they do not conform. They are not "one of us". The very idea that people regarded as "outsiders" with different beliefs and practices could still be loved as neighbours, seemed too hard to comprehend.

So little has changed today! In our various groups, there is such a fine line between the real loyalty that welcomes group members, and the false loyalty that attacks, condemns—even hates—those who are in some way different and do not quite fit the model of membership we have grown accustomed to. As we learn how to belong, so easily we learn how to hate as well, and our whole purpose is lost.

Sadly, in our world, there are fanatics for every cause, and Christianity is no exception. But as we reject the sowers of hate, let us never forget that those of different colour, race, creed, culture, gender or sexuality are, like the Good Samaritan, our neighbours—our brothers and sisters. Let us learn how to be staunchly, yet lovingly, *disloyal* to the teachers of hate, and to be faithful instead to that central truth of our religion: God is Love—for all people.

SEA SUNDAY

Seafarers, arriving in a port, will often find themselves strangers like the Samaritan in today's Gospel. They may not speak the language and their homes could be thousands of miles away. The "Apostleship of the Sea" is there to help them with anything from a phone top-up to resolving an issue with their employer. Please support them in today's retiring collection. Thank you.

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.**

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED at HOLY CROSS!

Thank you to all those who generously give of their time to keep both of our churches in such a clean and tidy condition. We find ourselves now in need of more cleaners to join the rota at Holy Cross—the more volunteers we have, the less often they will be called upon. Please speak to Pat in church, or to Marie in the office if you might be able to help.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

• This month's winners of the Monthly Prize Draw are:

£ 100	203	Graham S
£ 30	165	Anne S
£ 20	137	Francesca C

• Thank you to all who supported the Summer Fair in any way—the amount raised for parish funds will be announced next week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Joanne, Michael, David, Natallie, Bernard, Joan, Michael, Patrick, Andrew, Edna, Eileen, Michael, Peter, Aaron (age 14), Charlie (age 10), Margaret, Eileen, Elaine, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Pamela Walker, Nora Tighe (funeral at Holy Cross on Tuesday at 12 noon), Joe Treahy, Joseph Cribbin, Brigid Devine, Philippa Grimwood, James O'Rawe, Julie Mary Burgess, Sean Nash, Mark Rea, Pat Murray, Sr Maureen Francis O'Driscoll FMSJ, Mary Monks, Mina D'Cunha, Ifeoma Agbo.

Anniversaries: Paul Boardman, Sheila Carlos, Terry Smith (Birthday Anniv), Brian Slater, Eileen Patricia Jackson, Terry Carter, Gerard Nicholls (Birthday Anniv), Albert Yates, Anthony Evans (Birthday Anniv).

Remembrance: Mary & Terry Smith (66th Wedding Anniv), George and Mary Ellen Sewell, John and Mary Williams.

We also pray for: for the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, 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 Mission of St Euphrasia based at St Mary's, 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 served after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 12th Jul: Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *

Sunday 13th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with **Junior Receptions**)
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Nicholas) * Livestreamed

Monday 14th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*

Tuesday 15th: 12 noon Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Nora Tighe—*May she rest in peace*

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Wednesday 16th: 10.00am Y6 Leavers' Mass at **Holy Cross & All Saints' School**—*All welcome*
2.00pm Y6 Leavers' Mass at **St Mary's Church**—*All welcome*

Thursday 17th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

2.00pm Wedding Mass at St Mary's for Charlotte and Johnny

Friday 18th: 6.00pm Holy Hour for Peace with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament *
(Confessions available from 6.00-6.30pm only)

followed by 7.00pm Benediction and Mass at Holy Cross *

Saturday 19th: 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) *

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 20th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

11.15am Mass at Holy Cross

6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

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](#).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £955.04, and the retiring collection raised £98.30 for the work of our parish SVP Group. 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), if you would like to donate to the parish today. Thank you!



RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Stella Maris (for Sea Sunday)

Next week: No retiring collection next week

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.**

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of St Teresa of Avila and St Joseph, Irlam, with Fr Anthony Clarke, their parish priest. We pray for both their parish primary schools.

RECENT VOTES in PARLIAMENT

As we know,, MPs voted at Third Reading by 314 votes to 291 in support of Kim Leadbeater's **assisted suicide Bill**. This is a major drop in support from November's Second Reading.

Right to Life UK are confident it can be overturned, given its continued loss of support. You can find out more about the debate [here](#).

Please take action now and email your local MP:

www.righttolife.org.uk/uptobirthvote - it takes just 30 seconds!

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!

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS *(Please note that email addresses below can NOT be copied 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