



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

23rd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time

Daily
Prayer
Week 3

CONFRONTING OUR OPPONENTS

The message of today's Gospel is not an easy one. The setting is the real world of human relationships—St Matthew is addressing the people of the early Church as they find themselves arguing and getting into all sorts of disputes with one another, and he uses a particular teaching of Jesus to make his point. But then, as now, common practice was a very different story. As Christians, we need to think carefully about where we stand. We must guard against challenging our opponents in a way that belittles them to our advantage, and seek instead to correct and to guide them, with a view to lifting them closer to God.

The first part of Jesus's message makes simple sense. It is right that we should challenge someone who hurts or offends us or someone dear to us. Challenging is not about refusing to forgive, but it will often be an essential part of that forgiveness. If we do not challenge, our feelings of anger may grow into bitterness, and ultimately our love will die. And if we truly believe that the love within us is the presence of God, then this prospect should truly horrify us.

But how do we challenge? Society says we seek compensation for ourselves. We pursue the public condemnation of our opponent, and presume we will then feel better with them humiliated and money in our pockets. We even imagine this to be right when our opponent meant no harm—a simple accident or mistake which we might so easily have made ourselves. But God's way is different.

Our real aim should be for reconciliation—the triumph of love over bitterness. We challenge, so that the hurt may be healed, in *both* of us. We do not seek public humiliation, even if our first challenge fails. Then, according to the Gospel, we should involve two or three others, still trying to make mutual peace. Only if this too fails, does the wider community become involved—and this, to help our opponent see the error of their ways, and be changed for the better.

So where do we stand? Whose name brings feelings of anger or bitterness to the depths of our being? Who can we not wish well from our hearts? Let us bring it all to God, in prayer.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Veronica, Martin, Judith, Bill, James, David, Peter Kerridge (founder of Premier Christian Radio), Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Maria Seabra (Saturday evening Mass), Antony Lynch, Albert Cliffe, Pauline Yates (funeral at Holy Cross on Tuesday), Betty Hibbert, Fr Denis Clinch, Joe Martin, Theresa Hawker, Judith Barwick, Betty Keen, Mary Fahy, Thomas Baker, Rose Lawrence, Mary Gordon, Pastor Andrew Galimore (formerly of Bridgwater Baptist Church).

Anniversaries: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1st Anniversary), Rose Hosey, John Lockyer (2nd Anniversary), Richard ("Rick") Jackson, George Sewell (Birthday Anniversary), Caroline Redgrave (1st Anniversary), Kathleen Tuite (Birthday anniversary), Agnes Young, Lucy Kennedy, Mary Smith, Martin Platt, Maria Galbraith, Sheila Hazeldine.

Remembrance: Derris Brown, Burke and Evans families,

We also pray: for all the nations represented in our parish, for children suffering from poverty, for the success of the Diocesan Synod, for migrants, for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the war there, for the people of Sudan and so many other troubled lands, for Barbara Keeley, 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 John 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.

CAFOD PRESENTATION TODAY

There will be a short presentation from CAFOD read at each of our Masses this weekend.

PARISH CHURCH FEAST DAY on THURSDAY

Join us at Holy Cross for a special Mass at 7pm on Thursday, celebrating the Triumph of the Cross of Christ. There will be refreshments served in the parish meeting room afterwards.

MEETING FOR READERS and MINISTERS

An important meeting will be held on **this Tuesday** (12th September), at 6.30pm at St Mary's church for **all** of our **Readers, Eucharistic Ministers** and any **apparitors** who are willing to join us—for prayer, renewal and re-commissioning. It is the first time we have done this since Covid, and much has changed as well as many new people joining us. New volunteers for any of these roles would also be most welcome. This is for both sides of the parish, whether you minister at Holy Cross or St Mary's. **Please join us if you possibly can.**

APPLY FOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Applications are now invited for ALL of our Sacramental Programmes via the parish website—just use the links below from the online version of this newsletter.

Our Baptism programme in the parish is ongoing. If your child **will not reach their 7th Birthday within the next 6 months**, simply come along regularly to Mass and fill in the form on the [Baptism](#) page of the parish website. If your child will reach their 7th Birthday within the next 6 months, a new programme for "[older children's Receptions](#)" will begin in October. Come along to Mass and look out for further announcements. For **Baptised children** in Year 3+ a new [First Communion Programme](#) is now being launched, and for adults and young people aged 14+ seeking Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church, a new "[RCIA](#)" Group will begin in October. Baptised young people in Y8 **are now being invited** to apply for the new [Confirmation Programme](#). (The form on the Confirmation page will require access to a printer—alternatively copies can be obtained from the parish office and shortly from our Catholic high schools). The recurrent theme here will always be **please, come along to Mass and be part of the family!**

INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS

Meetings for parents in preparation for the First **Holy Communion** programme will be announced in our Catholic schools. A further meeting will take place for those not in our schools, and for any who miss these meetings, at Holy Cross Church on Tuesday 26th September at 6pm.

We will also be announcing a meeting in next week's newsletter for parents introducing the [older children's Reception](#) group at Holy Cross Church—please check the website to see if this applies to you!

DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

Please use the Synod Prayer whenever you can, praying for each other and for the wider Diocesan community:

Loving Father,
be with us as we seek new ways
of being your people in our Diocese.
May each new day bring us
closer to your son Jesus,
as we follow his teaching and
become disciples of love.
As we continue our Synodal journey,
draw us closer to each other.
May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us.
Open our hearts, as we listen to each other
and reach out in love to your people.
Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

Amen.

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 as announced at 11.15am Masses
Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
and after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross on 1st and 3rd Sundays
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

<i>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Sat 9th Sept:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
	Sunday 10th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Nicholas)
	Monday 11th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>
	Tuesday 12th:	10.00am School Welcome Mass at St Mary's Church— <i>All welcome</i> 1.15pm Funeral Service at Holy Cross for Pauline Yates— <i>May she rest in peace</i> 6.30pm Commissioning for ALL Readers and Eucharistic Ministers at St Mary's
<i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	Wednesday 13th:	10.00am Welcome Mass at Holy Cross and All Saints' School— <i>All welcome</i>
	Thursday 14th:	11.00am Funeral Service at St Mary's for Antony Lynch (with Fr Gavin) <i>May he rest in peace</i> 7.00pm Parish Church Feastday Mass at Holy Cross * (<i>refreshments afterwards</i>)
	Friday 15th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (<i>with Confessions available</i>) followed by 7.00pm Mass, at Holy Cross *
	Saturday 16th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (<i>with Confessions available</i>) followed by 12 noon Mass at St Mary's 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
<i>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Sunday 17th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr John) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

* **Livestreamed**

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](#).

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

- This week: **Catholic Education Service**
- Next week: **Home Missions**

We will try to remember to give a week's notice for retiring collections in future, as used to be the case. Our apologies for not having done so for a while!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Last week's collection in church totalled £1,160.91 and the retiring collection raised £97.87 for the work of our 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.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We will be hosting a coffee morning in support of the work of the Macmillan nurses on Friday 29th September at 10.30am in the **Small Hall** at St Mary's. We are grateful to Fr John for allowing us the use of this hall, which is now given over to the Syro-Malabar community and refurbished by them. Come along for tea/coffee, cakes, raffle, bingo and chat. There will be an entrance fee of 50p at the door.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishioners of St Ambrose and St Bernadette, with Fr Peter Tierney, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, Loreto High School, and the Marist Sisters. May they be inspired by the example of St Ambrose Barlow, born in their parish, and helped by his prayers.

APF (Red Mission Box) APPEAL NEXT WEEK

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Jan Klaver to all our Masses, making an appeal on behalf of the Red Mission Box charity.

CELEBRATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY

...on Saturday (16th), 10.30am at Sacred Heart, Gorton, with Bishop John. Learn more and register [HERE](#) (online newsletter).

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. Any Sacramental Programme children should go to the grown-up who brought them so that you can see them safely back.

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, 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 789 5035
St Mary's: 0161 789 4532
St Patrick's High School: 0161 921 2300

SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey