



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN PAUL II, ECCLES

Services usually held at: Holy Cross, Patricroft and St Mary's, Eccles  
Parish Office: Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 8QD

27th  
Sunday in  
Ordinary  
Time  
Morning  
Prayer  
Week 3

## GOD'S VINEYARD

We may not be familiar with the sight of vineyards or of absentee landlords sending messengers to tenant farm workers around Eccles, but the stories from Isaiah and St Matthew that we hear today are nonetheless clear enough in their meaning. God chose his people, Israel, and expected great things of them, but instead they turned away so their inheritance was offered to others – to anyone who would follow in the footsteps of Christ.

In stories like these we are reminded of our own call, as "Gentiles," to the Kingdom of God, after so many of the scribes and pharisees had chosen to reject the call of God through his prophets of old – but let us never become complacent in our calling. If some in Jesus' time were rejected because they failed to produce good fruit, where then is the spiritual fruit of our own labours? Are our "good deeds" an example to the world of today? Are we finding ways, through prayer and attentiveness to God's Word, to be true "missionary disciples" in this difficult time of pandemic? Let us be filled with the hope God's Word brings, but also let us rise to the challenge – that the same Word may transform us, and through us transform the world.

## FIRST COMMUNION UPDATE

We continue our behind-the-scenes preparation to complete the final stages of the Sacramental Programme and to begin First Communion Masses. We are sorry it is taking a little longer than had been hoped, but we will bring some specific updates very soon. Please continue to keep all the children and their families in your prayers.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Doreen, Helen, Shirley, Bridget, Sara, Cham, Tara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Carol, Sarah, John, Vincent de Paul, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick (age 7), David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Ann, Patrick, Sister Jenny, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Frances, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, John, Joan, Paul, Peter, Maureen, Pat, Patrick, David, Sister Maureen, Yvonne, Terry, Betty, Kathleen, Colette, Stanley, Win, Catherine, James, Alan, Betty, 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, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Bernard, Elaine, Ellen, Glens, Sheila, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Sheila, Martin, Joanne, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, John, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, May, Louise, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Sister Regina, Nijole, Ken, Stephen, Arthur, Kevin.

**Lately Dead:** Baby Theo (Saturday evening Mass), Olivia Garvey, Marek Kuc, June Grand, Dana Baniel, Elizabeth Parker, Angela Keogh, Aliason Dapoto, Yvonne Taylor, Doris Ralf, Sister Alphonso, Stephen John Whittle, Donna Finch.

**Anniversaries:** Eddy and Pat Hosey, Frederick ("Eric") Baillie, Martin Tighe, Fr Terry McCann, Richard Jackson, Margaret Maher.

**Remembrance:** Charles, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne.

**We also pray:** for world peace, for an end to racism in all its forms and for our schools. We pray for world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout the Covid-19 crisis and for all those suffering from the disease, for Sr Annie and her projects in Syria, in thanksgiving, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers and for a number of special intentions.

## HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Today (Sunday) would have marked the beginning of Stage 4 of the diocesan "Hope in the Future" programme but, given current circumstances, the Bishop will instead lead a Holy Hour online from Salford Cathedral, this afternoon (Sunday) at 3.00pm. The theme of the Holy Hour will be "Hope in Difficult Times" and it is hoped that it will provide parishioners around our diocese with an opportunity to take stock of the last few months. The focus is not on moving to "Stage 4" but rather reflecting on the presence of the Lord all through lockdown, and as we continue on our journey. The Lord has, in a very real sense, answered our prayer and stayed with us on our journey. We need to pause, draw breath, grieve where we need to grieve but also be grateful where we can be and allow ourselves to be renewed.

You can join in the Holy Hour on Church Services TV by clicking [HERE](#) (or see the following page for full links).

## BAPTISMS

We continue with the new-style programme of preparation for Baptism in these days when face to face meetings are not possible. Please ensure, if you are applying for Baptism, that even though there remains no obligation for Mass attendance there is, nonetheless, a real commitment to live the life of the Gospel with your child and to return to Church when circumstances are different. If you are being kept waiting do, please, bear with us, and if you have a Baptism already arranged please accept that we must now apply the new regulation that a maximum of 6 people may attend—and this **does** include the child being baptised and any other children present. (In this country, children are included in the "rule of six"). Thank you for your understanding.

## COLLECTIONS

For those who are able to support the parish online, the "DONATE" button can be found on the [homepage](#) of our website. It can be used for one-off donations or to set up weekly or monthly payments, with Gift Aid also facilitated. Last week's collection in church, plus some other donations, amounted to £1,027.37, and the separate collection for the Holy Places of Palestine raised £148.00 which will be forwarded. Thank you. This week we hold another retiring collection for "Peter's Pence" which will also be forwarded to the Holy See. Once again, marked envelopes may be left in the basket at the back of church, or delivered via the letterbox at Holy Cross.

## PLEASE HELP US KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE!

You are most welcome, whether you are joining us in church or sharing in our services online. Check our [Coronavirus Page](#) for the latest updates. **If you are planning to come to church:**

- Please stay away if you, or anyone at home, has any Covid-like symptoms or if you have been asked to self-isolate. **Even if you have a Baptism booked, please phone and cancel**—we will rearrange for you as soon as possible.
- Whilst currently the "Rule of 6" does not restrict our congregations to 6 people, it is essential that we take care not to spread the infection. **Inside the churches the "2 metre" rule must be strictly followed** (even though you should be wearing a mask), and outside, the Rule of 6 **does** apply, so there must be **no congregating and no socialising with people outside your support bubble in the church grounds**. (Also we cannot meet up to answer questions or to sign Mass cards etc in the church).
- Mass intentions, etc, can simply be left in a marked envelope either in the letterbox or in the collection basket.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## CURRENT SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**Saturday (Vigil Mass):** 5.00pm at Holy Cross  
**Sunday Morning:** 9.30am at St Mary's  
11.30am at St Mary's

*Children's Liturgies are currently suspended  
Refreshments after Masses are also currently suspended*

**Weekdays:** See Weekday Calendar below  
**Holydays:** As announced beforehand

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are currently only available  
by prior arrangement  
and out of doors as Fr Martin cannot meet you face to face

## 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 – Church opening marked in Red

We stream all **weekday Masses** on our [Facebook Live](#) page, on [YouTube Live](#) and directly on our [Live](#) webpage

**Monday:** 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross open to the public.

**Tuesday:** 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross open to the public.

**Wednesday:** 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross open to the public.

**Thursday:** 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross open to the public.

**Friday:** 7.00pm Mass at Holy Cross open to the public. Holy Cross Church also open for private prayer from 6.00-7.00pm

**Saturday (daytime):** We will stream 11.00am **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** followed by **12 noon Mass**

**Saturday (evening):** 5.00pm **Vigil Mass** at Holy Cross open to the public, also livestreamed, with a higher quality video of the recording available on our [YouTube channel](#), and on the [Live](#) page of our website from 9.00am Sunday morning.

**Sunday Morning:** 9.30am and 11.30am Masses at St Mary's open to the public.

*Please note that we cannot livestream Services from St Mary's, as there is no internet connection there.  
This is why our daily Masses are all at Holy Cross, as most of our congregation is still worshipping online.*

## CONFIRMATIONS 2022—URGENT APPEAL

We are preparing to restart, at parish and deanery level, the Confirmation programme for **all those now in Year 8** at high school who began their preparation last year, and for others who might have missed the original invitation which only went out through the Catholic schools. 41 children from this parish of St John Paul II attended the initial presentations by the diocese, but as of the original closing date for formal applications (2nd October) **only one** application to proceed has been received. We have now extended the deadline for the return of these application forms, and the invitation letter and form itself can be downloaded [HERE](#). **You may ask** "why do we need to apply if we attended the launch presentations from the diocese last year?" The answer is, in fact quite simple—at those events the only information gathered from the sign-in sheets was your child's name and the primary school they then attended (and which they have since left). No contact details were requested, so without the new application form we have no way of getting in touch with you. **Please ensure applications are returned as soon as possible, and by Monday 19th October at the latest**, or we will not be able to include your child in the contact list for Sr Anna Yeo (our Deanery Confirmation and Youth Coordinator), and they will not be Confirmed in 2021.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEET

This week's "Look" leaflet for your children can be found [HERE](#).

## 3rd/4th October 2020



**This week we pray for:** the parishioners of St Aidan and Oswald, Royton, and for Fr Stephen Doyle, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school and for Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

## HOPE IN THE FUTURE COMMITTEE

There seem to be several of things which it would be helpful to discuss with the parish Hope in the Future Committee, and Fr Martin will try contact members this week by phone to find the best time for us to meet up by Zoom. After this we will also arrange a similar meeting with the Finance Committee. In the meantime, to ensure that all we do remains grounded in prayer, we would particularly encourage committee members to join with the Bishop's Holy Hour online at 3.00pm today (Sunday).

The Holy Hour can be watched here:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral>

and the Order of Service can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Holy-Hour-Order-of-Service.pdf>

## RENOVATION WORK AT ST MARY'S

Whilst we still have no start date, do be assured that plans for the essential works at St Mary's are moving forward.

## 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](http://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:** Katrina Foster/Tara Higgins/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*