

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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 4

THE WEDDING GARMENT

Once again in today's Gospel, we find a teaching which seems harsh. It is a parable of a king who, when the invited guests to his son's wedding fail to turn up, firsts sends servants to make the invitation more personal but then, when these servants are ill-treated, generously calls in the crowds – "bad and good alike" – and welcomes them instead to the banquet. But one is found without a wedding garment, and is thrown out where there will be "weeping and grinding of teeth."

So, what is going on? What has the unfortunate 'ejectee' done wrong? Would God really be so harsh?

Let us consider the story more deeply. It is addressed to the "chief priests and elders of the people" – leaders who should be supporting and nurturing those over whom they hold authority. If we imagine them invited into God's kingdom, they should surely be leading the community in with them. But instead, not only do they fail to bring God's people to the banquet, they cannot even be bothered to come in themselves. And the prophets, sent to bring them back on task? As we know, all of them ill-treated, some of them killed. So God reaches out to the peoples of the world directly – even to us, of pagan descent – and calls us in to the glory of his kingdom. We are not worthy, but God's mercy is greater than any human failing and, to all who ask, that

mercy and forgiveness are wrapped around them like a wedding garment. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven – in the words of the hymn.

But what of free will? There is one in the story who does not yet wear the garment of forgiveness. Still, the Lord addresses them as "friend" – all they must do is ask his forgiveness and everything will be restored. Compare the story elsewhere in the Gospels where Jesus stops those trying to stone a woman caught in adultery. "Let the one amongst you without sin cast the first stone." And as the formerly self-righteous crowd disperses, Jesus speaks to the woman, and she enters the conversation with him. Now she is forgiven – "Go away and do not sin anymore." But in our parable today, the man without a wedding garment will not respond – "the man was silent" the story goes tells us. If only he had answered, the healing cloak of the wedding garment would surely have been his to receive. But he would not ask – he chose not to. And God, who respects our free will, would never force him to stay.

Each of us, "bad and good alike," is called to God's kingdom. That cloak of mercy and forgiveness is offered to us all, if we will simply enter into a dialogue with God – turn to him in prayer – and recognise that we are called purely out of His generosity, not out of any deserving on our part. We must accept his love – a love which will change our lives – but we must also look upon our neighbours' failings in a new light. Let those among us without sin cast the first stone. Or let us forgive.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Janet, Mary, Lyndsay, Gemma, Peter, Rosa, Daniel, Sheila, Mark, Fred, Joan, Sr Moira, John, Jim, Sheila, Sheila, Alex, Michael, Martin, Joanne, Aidan, Desmond, Eamon, John, Stefa, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Ann, Malcolm, Harvey, Claire, Louise and baby Maisy, Lewis (13 yrs. old), Caitlin (age 12), Loren (age 18), Marie, Paddy, John, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Dennis and Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Joseph, Martin, Ishrat, Elaine, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: Fr Michael Fleming, Kathleen Walton, Patrick Kehoe, Catherine Williams, James Pickering, Martin Tighe, James Pickering, Eileen Kelly, Rosaleen McElhinney, Krzysztof Wiczorek, Celia Fetherston.

Anniversaries: Mary Morrissey, Fr Kevin Griffin, Joanne Faulkner, Peter Corcoran, Annie Smith, Maureen Denton, Reda Cross, Eddy and Pat Hosey.

We also pray: for world peace, 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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME PRESENTATIONS

Registrations are now complete for our programme of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion next year. Once again, we welcome more than 70 children and their families and, over time, we hope they will grow in the sense of belonging to God's family here in the parish of Holy Cross, St Matthew and St Gilbert. Today at all Masses, we formally present the children to the parish, inviting your prayers and support as the parents pass on a lighted candle as a symbol of the Faith for which the children begin to take more responsibility themselves.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Jennifer, Michael
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Alvin, Josie

OFFERTORY

Collection: 7th/8th October: See printed version
SVP Retiring Collection: See printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week
Next week: World Mission Sunday – "Missio"

• *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 after Mass at St Matthew's only, 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
and 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 October)*

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass for Fr Kevin Griffin (Anniversary today)
Tuesday:	11.00am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Kathleen Walton. <i>May she rest in peace</i>
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass 7.00pm Finance Committee Meeting, Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross
Thursday:	2.00pm Harvest Mass at St Gilbert's School . All welcome
Friday:	12 noon Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Martin Tighe. <i>May he rest in peace</i> 6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 7pm Mass and Divine Mercy
Saturday (daytime):	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Matthew's followed by 12 noon Mass and Novena

PARISH DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Thank you to all who supported this event last week, and especially to Sr Teresa Brittain for her input on the theme of "Embracing Change." Let us pray, as a parish, for the grace to embrace and not resist any changes that God sends our way. "Stay with us, Lord, on our journey."

EMBRACE PROJECT

We will be in touch again with Sr Mary Considine and make arrangements for training for our volunteers. Thank you.

SVP MASS FOR THE SICK

Unfortunately we had to postpone this special annual event as the heating system at St Matthew's has not yet been repaired. We are awaiting a part from Germany, but are now informed that it will not arrive until Tuesday of this coming week. A new date will be announced soon.

'HOPE IN THE FUTURE'

Thank you to Marie, Jaïne and Rachel (Parish Youth Rep) who represented the parish at the Diocesan launch of "Hope in the Future" at Salford Cathedral. More about this will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

NEW ROTAS AT ST MATTHEW'S

The new Readers' Rota for St Matthew's, (running from the first Sunday in November), are now available for collection from the Sacristy after Mass. Those for Holy Cross will be available next weekend

FAMILY FAST DAY

Envelopes can be returned with your collection over the next fortnight. Thank you.

AID FOR THE CHURCH IN NEED

Richard wishes to thank all those who sponsored him in his recent triathlon for Aid to the Church in Need. The total raised so far is £350. Any further contributions will be gratefully received

PARISH MINIBUS OUTING

The first outing is now scheduled for **this Monday** (16th October)—a trip to Lymm for a 2 course lunch for £6.99 (main course: fish, chips and peas). The minibus will leave from Holy Cross at 11.00am, and will also pick up just afterwards at St Matthew's. The return journey will begin at 2.00pm. List at both churches. Thank you. (Transport free).

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday 5th December, 12.30-3.00pm. £16 all inclusive. Veronica will be collecting money at both weekend Masses at Holy Cross from this weekend onwards. *Any enquiries about this, or the Minibus Outing—please contact Veronica on 707 1300. Thank you.*

RECENT BAPTISMS

May God bless Chandler, Aliyah, Florence, Ruben, Zack, Lucy Jane, Kevin, Junior, Ieva, Saule, and Hannah who were baptised on 7th October 2017

MEMORIAL MASS 2ND NOVEMBER

On 2nd November, the Feast of the Holy Souls, there will be a Memorial Mass in Holy Cross Church at 7pm. Candles will be lit in remembrance of those who have died since November 2016 Candles will be on sale from 6.30 to 7.00pm. There will be one large candle (and small candles if you wish) per family.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:	Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424
<i>Mobile:</i>	07502 633383
<i>Email:</i>	frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk or via contact form on the parish website.
Parish Secretary:	Mr Paul Boardman
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Wed, 10am-4pm)
<i>Email:</i>	secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk or via contact form on the website.
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 or Marie Twemlow
<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 Rep:

Email:

Sharon Devlin
sharon@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

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

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey