

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HOLY CROSS, ST MATTHEW AND ST GILBERT WITH ST MARY'S, ECCLES

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
YEAR B Morning Prayer Week 3

Love of God and Neighbour

Which is the first of all the Commandments? If we were to ask Jesus this question today, as the Scribe asked him in today's Gospel, how would he reply? The Jewish Law had its 613 commandments, whilst we have our Canon Law, the Catechism, the documents of Vatican II and so many other instructional texts to draw upon. So which is the first and the greatest?

Jesus' answer to the Scribe was tailored to his hearer. There was a great tradition amongst Jewish Rabbis to argue over the precise interpretation of scriptural texts, and Jesus was well known for presenting new angles and making his hearers think. So, we might expect his answer to be 'clever' and thought provoking. But here, the commandment he names 'first' could never be questioned by any Jew. Love God with every fibre of your being - the quotation he gives from the Book of Deuteronomy made up the most fundamental Jewish creed, and was contained in a tiny case, the 'mezuzah', at the entrance of every home and at the door of each room. There is no controversy here at all, and every devout Jew would see the importance of this command. Jesus then adds a second and, saying 'there is no commandment greater than these,' gives it equal weight to the first. From the Book of Leviticus, he quotes: love your neighbour as yourself. The Scribe, then, not only agrees, but goes on to clarify that these mean more than any service in the Temple

or proper worship - and in recognising this he proves in Jesus' eyes that he is not far from the kingdom of Heaven.

So, what would Jesus' answer be, to us, today? The precise words would undoubtedly change as he would address us here, as we are, and not expect us to look back to Jewish traditions of old. But the message would most certainly be the same. If we are truly to evaluate and deepen our commitment to God's Church, then whatever documents we might study we must never veer far from this fundamental truth. After all, the very first thing of which parents are reminded as they bring their children for Baptism is: 'it will be your duty to bring [your child] up to keep God's Commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour'.

How ready are we to go that extra mile and help our neighbours in their need? (With our expanding parish, the need is so great). How ready are we to accept as our neighbour people we might find it hard to like? How ready are we to see the face of Christ in all his children, to set aside our quick judgments and recognise what is good, lovable and "created in the image and likeness of God," however many dark clouds might obscure our view?

If we wish to grow in our faith, let us first be ready to grow in Love - because there, more than anywhere else in the world or in the heavens, we will truly find God.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: John, John, Malcolm, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Terry, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Eunice, Charlotte, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Jean, Sheila, Monica, Joan, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Philomena, Sister Olivia, Fr Paul, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Melanie, Bernard, Martin and Bridget and family, Margaret, Elaine, 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, Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Martin, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Nijole, Josie, Stephen, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: Jean Enright, Alfie Worthington, Sr Audrey Carnall, Shamus Nugent, Vanessa Rudden, Edward Young, Vincent O'Reilly, Bill O'Connor, Michael O'Brien, Roger Bate, Sr Rita Whooley, Christopher Rodrigues (brother of Enid Noronha), Jean Louis Barillier, Kevin Waterworth (Fr Frank's brother), Eileen Haigh, Tom Noakes, Peter Callaghan, Bernard Mason, Fr Phillip Price, Betty Broderick, Jamie Brockwell, Eric MacEvoy, Caroline Burns, Rita Joyce, Cyril Leyden, Maureen l'Anson, Paula Braciak, Christopher Doyle, Ada Brooks, Brenda Robinson.

Anniversaries: Jack Fagan, Maurice Fagan, Ellen Maksymowicz, Walter Parkes, Thomas Peters, Tom Wilde, Elizabeth Royle, John Ferguson, Frank Smith, Ada Serapiglia, Joanne Faulkner, Fr Kevin Griffin, Gerard McNamara, Carmelo Coppini, Annie Byrne, Dermot Byrne, Teresa Byrne, Eamon Byrne, Cecelia Angela Coslett, Damien Hibbert, Maureen Gaffney, Fr Michael Fleming, Bishop Geoffrey Burke, Fr Alfred Hughes, Ann McGuinn, Ellen O'Keefe, Jennifer Elsie Leigh, Gladys Ada Sharpe, Sheila Tipton, Elizabeth and George Parker, Frederick Baillie, Catherine Mulligan, Fr Michael Fasnacht, Tommy Nolan, Lorna Sherrat, Katherine Mulheran, Mary Weeks, Roddy Delaney, Sheila Hazeldine, Daniel Mahoney, Michael Hefferan.

We also pray: for Fr Livesey, 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.

PARISH AMALGAMATION and closure of St Matthew's Church

Please check the newsletter carefully for times and venues of weekday Masses.

The final Sunday Mass at St Matthew's will be at 9am on Sunday 18th November, and the closing Mass will be celebrated by the Bishop at 7pm on Friday 23rd November. There will be planning meetings arranged very soon in preparation for this.

The first two consultations, concerning parish boundaries and Mass times, are now complete, apart from some responses which are needed from neighbouring clergy regarding shared boundaries. **Thank you** for your contributions. New Mass times will be announced once the preferences have been carefully studied in the light of what it will be possible to deliver. Thank you for your comments, too, on the forms which again will be given consideration.

Do, please, keep these challenging times in your prayers, that with Our Lord's help, all will be turned to good for the building up of the Kingdom of God in our area. *Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.*

VOLUNTEER EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting at St Mary's last week and to the others who have also already expressed their willingness to help. We do, now, seem to have the makings of a way forward, though we still need some more volunteers in the short term to help "show the ropes" to the new Ministers and to travel with them to the sick and housebound until the essential DBS checks are complete. Fr Martin is now in the process of contacting those awaiting a visit in St Mary's parish to make it clear they are not, and will never be forgotten. We sincerely hope that, within a fortnight, regular visits will be established.

OFFERTORY

Collection: Holy Cross, St Matthew's & St Gilbert's: See print version
St Mary's: See print version

PRAYER MEETINGS at St GILBERT'S

There will be no prayer meetings at St Gilbert's Presbytery until further notice due to unforeseen circumstances

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection
Next week: Retired Clergy Fund

- *New to one of the parishes?*
 - *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
10.15am at St Mary's
10.30am at Holy Cross
(with Children's Liturgy throughout the academic year)
Tea and Coffee served after morning Masses at Holy Cross and St Matthew's
Sunday Evening: 6.00pm at St Mary's
Weekdays: See Weekday Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at St Mary's
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Matthew's,
10.30-11.45am at St Mary'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 Baptism. Please speak to Fr Martin or Sr Jenny after Mass

Weekday Calendar *(Week beginning Monday 5th November)*

Monday: 11.00am Mass at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
Tuesday: 9.30am Mass at St Gilbert's School with Year 4. *All welcome*
10.15am Knitting Club at St Matthew's
12 noon Mass at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
7.00pm Christmas Fair planning meeting, in the Small Hall at St Mary's. *All welcome—see separate entry below*
7.00pm Choir Rehearsal at Holy Cross Presbytery (Parish Meeting Room). *New members always welcome*
Wednesday: 10.00am Funeral Mass at St Mary's for the late Gerald Cawley. *May he rest in peace*
Thursday: 9.00am Mass at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass
7.00pm Hope in the Future Group Meeting at Holy Cross. *Please see separate entry below*
Friday: 12 noon Mass at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Matthew's 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
There will also be a 12 noon Mass at St Mary's with Fr Livesey

St GILBERT'S SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

On Saturday evening we welcome the Pupil Chaplains from St Gilbert's school to the 6.30pm Mass at Holy Cross church, where they will be helping out in various ways. Do say hello!

WELCOME for St GILBERT'S RECEPTION CLASS

At Sunday's 10.30am Mass at Holy Cross, we welcome the Reception children (accompanied by their Year Six "buddies") to demonstrate that, as newcomers to the school, they are also valued members of our parish. (Three weeks ago we held a similar welcome for Holy Cross and All Saints' School, and next weekend St Mary's children will be welcomed at the 10.15am Mass there).

CHRISTMAS FAIR

There will be a meeting in the Small Hall at St Mary's **this Tuesday** (6th November) at 7.00pm in preparation for the forthcoming Fair at St Mary's. This is the only fair in our two parishes, and it would be a wonderful move together if some from Holy Cross, St Matthew's and St Gilbert's parish could attend, sharing ideas and offering and support. **All welcome!**

HOPE IN THE FUTURE GROUP MEETING

The next meeting for this major parish group (incorporating the Pastoral and Social Outreach Committees and with members from St Mary's parish) will take place **this Thursday** (8th November) at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross Presbytery.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME AT St MARY'S

Next Sunday (11th November) we will formally launch the programme at St Mary's with an act of Presentation during the Mass.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

...coming soon in the parish. This is a venture from the Social Outreach Committee (now part of the "Hope in the Future" group) and is aimed at helping those who have come to us from other countries to feel more welcome and at home. See noticeboards for more information.

3rd/4th November 2018

This week let us pray for:

- The parish of St. Dunstan and St. John Vianney, Moston, with Fr. Saunders, their parish priest.
 - The people of the parish of St. Edward, Lees, with Mgr Marsland and Fr. Brown.
 - Their primary schools, and for St. Matthew's High School.
- Let us remember our baptismal calling to become truly holy.**



HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS DRAW

All donations would be gratefully appreciated: **cash** towards prizes, **bottles/drinks**, unopened **gift sets**. (No bric-a-brac, please). Lists and boxes for donations at the back of Holy Cross and St Matthew's churches. Tickets now available. (For this year, there will continue to be a separate Christmas Draw at St Mary's)

OBERAMMERGAU 2020

Deposits are now due from those joining us on the pilgrimage to the great 10-yearly Passion Play at Oberammergau, travelling with "Northern Star Travel". (The required amount at this stage is £200 per person plus £48 for insurance). If there is anyone who may still wish to join the group, please speak to Fr Martin or to Anne-Marie Horrocks.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday 17th November, 7-11pm, concert with "Pontiac" at **Patricroft Conservative Club** in support of the running of our parish minibus. (Our thanks to the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes). Tickets are available at £6 each.
- Saturday 24th November, from 12.30pm, Christmas Fair at **St Mary's Parish Hall**.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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

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 Hall Hire: Enquiries to Steve Jackson
Telephone: 07580 571839

Holy Cross RC Church	St Matthew's RC Church	St Mary's RC Church
Liverpool Road	Worsley Road	Oxford Street
Patricroft	Winton	Eccles
M30 8QD	M30 8BL	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