

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 3

Scribes and Pharisees – You and Me

Considering that they, unlike the Sadducees, accepted Jesus's teaching on the resurrection of the dead, and that some of them, Nicodemus for example, considered themselves to be disciples of Jesus and took his words very much to heart, it seems a pity that the very mention of "Scribes and Pharisees" evokes in us an image of contempt for a proud and pompous order so different and far removed from ourselves. And yet, the moment we allow ourselves the luxury of such feelings of contempt, we find ourselves falling into the very trap that led Jesus so often to speak out in condemnation of their ways.

One of the greatest advances in Western society today is the way in which modern Law rightly empowers the poor and the weak, giving them a real voice – a real opportunity to stand up for their rights in the courts and in the community. More and more society rejects the "privilege" of riches and seeks to give equal value to all

people. More and more lawyers will stand up on our behalf and fight for our justice, whoever we may be. This is real progress, and it is fully in keeping with the teachings of Jesus.

But every advance carries with it the opportunity for misuse, and perhaps here we find ourselves unwittingly welcomed into the fold of the Scribes and Pharisees, with every chance to overlook our own failings and instead to seek vengeance and punishment on those we judge to have sinned against us.

Is it any wonder that so few today seek reconciliation with God in the Sacrament of Confession, when society calls us "weak" whenever we offer forgiveness or seek reconciliation with our neighbour?

When the woman was caught in adultery, Jesus did not condone her sin but rather challenged those with the power to punish her: "Let the one among you without sin cast the first stone." And so, one by one, they left.

If we are weak and modern society has given us a voice, let us use that voice to lift up and to encourage others who are weak around us. And if we now find power in our poverty, let us use that power to bring hope and healing to all the poor.

But when human weakness makes us selfish and we want to use our new-found power to punish and to exact vengeance on our own behalf, then let us take our place with the Scribes and Pharisees and receive the words of Jesus. If we listen with care, he does not condemn us, but simply calls us to change and, like Nicodemus, to take his teaching to heart. Then we can say with confidence in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

After all, it is the same human weakness which causes us to sin that so often leads us to judge and to condemn our neighbour all too readily. With God's help, there is always a better way, guided by his Love.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Janet, Mary, Lyndsay, Gemma, Peter, Rosa, Daniel, Sheila, 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: Piedade D'Sousa (Sunday's Mass at St Matthew's), Philip Walker, Fr Adrian Edwards CSSp, Canon Kevin O'Connor, Elvira Vaz, Thomas Conlan, Fr Michael Fleming, Kathleen Walton, Patrick Kehoe, Catherine Williams.

Anniversaries: John Sullivan, Edna Smith, Michael and Frances Lavin, Patrocinio Gigante, Tom Roddy, Thomas Wilde, Frank Smith, John Fagan, Walter Parkes, Thomas Peters, Elizabeth Royle, Mary Morrissey, Fr Kevin Griffin, Joanne Faulkner, Peter Corcoran.

Remembrance: Patrick Comey, Edna Smith

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.

READERS THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Veronica, Jennifer
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Sheila, Paul

OFFERTORY

Collection: 21st/22nd October: See printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection
Next week: Retired Clergy Fund

• *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 are served after both morning Masses</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 6th November)*

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Tuesday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass 6.30pm Social Outreach Committee Meeting, Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass
Thursday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass
Friday:	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

SAFEGUARDING 'CLINIC' NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, representatives from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office will be at Holy Cross to assist with updating the DBS checks for all of our parish volunteers, beginning with new volunteers but also bringing up to date existing volunteers who currently hold the old CRB certificates. **Please collect ID check forms from Anne-Marie or Fr Martin this week**, so that with these filled in in advance, the process next weekend will go much more smoothly and swiftly. **Thank you to all our volunteers who contribute so much to the life of the parish.**

MINIBUS—LIFTS TO MASS

We hope to begin lifts to the 10.30am Sunday Mass for those who have requested them from next week—we will be in touch to confirm. Any more volunteer drivers or chaperones for these runs would be most helpful!

MEMORIAL MASS LAST WEEK

Thank you to all those who supported the special Mass on All Souls' day last week. A special thank you to members of the Pastoral Committee for their organisation, and to the Altar Servers and Musicians for enhancing the liturgy so well, as they regularly do. It was wonderful to see so many in the congregation joining in prayer for all our loved ones who have died.

ACN—North West BENEFACTORS' MASS

There will be a Mass of thanksgiving for the loyal support of all the past and present benefactors of 'Aid to the Church in Need', at Holy Name Church on Saturday 18th November at 2.00pm. All welcome.

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW 2017

Prizes, cash and voucher donations are requested. There are lists at the back of each church for donations, and **draw tickets** are also available at the back of church. The Draw will take place on Sunday December 10th, at 12 noon in the Community Hall at Holy Cross.

'HOPE IN THE FUTURE'

Watch this space for updates on this major venture in the Diocese. We will be seeking volunteers to form a steering group within the parish, hoping especially that members of the current Pastoral Committee might be willing to serve.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday 5th December, 12.30-3.00pm at Boysnope Golf Club. Thank you to everyone for your prompt payment! On the day, **please arrive between 12 noon and 12.20pm**, for the meal to begin at 12.30 prompt. *Any enquiries, please contact Veronica. Thank you.*

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:	Mrs Marie Twemlow
<i>Telephone:</i>	0161 789 4424 (Mon & Tue, 10am-3pm)
<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

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Email:

Schools:

Holy Cross and All Saints:
St Gilbert's:
St Patrick's High School:

St Matthew's RC Church

Worsley Road
Winton
Eccles
M30 8BL

Sharon Devlin

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SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey