

# 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

2nd Sunday of Advent  
YEAR C Morning Prayer Week 2

## ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Establishing ourselves as a brand-new parish, how will we prepare for the coming of our God amidst the uncertainty of "what will happen this year?" and amidst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas shopping season, the parties and the frayed tempers? Are we, as it were, "wading through treacle" in an attempt to respect and celebrate the holiness of Advent whilst our minds and hearts are somewhere else? Must we simply reproach ourselves when we become so absorbed in the challenges of change and in the affairs of the world that our spiritual needs go untended?

Today's readings seem to suggest otherwise. Four writers: Baruch, the Psalmist, Paul and Luke (reporting on John the Baptist), all recognise the need in their hearers to change and to grow in their preparation for something greater – yet none uses reproach, none focuses on the wrongs or lapses that brought about the need for change. Instead, the preparation they encourage is joyful: that we should look forward to the joys which will prompt us to change. For Baruch: let the people focus their minds on God's promises, not on the sorrows they experience just now. For the Psalmist: the image of the reaper gathering in the sheaves with joy, forgetting the pain and tears of the sowing season. For Paul: remember the joys we have shared together in the past, and use the happy memories to grow even more. And for John the Baptist: the voice preaching repentance, but with a clear and positive reason; "all peoples will see the salvation of God."

Here, then, lies our best manner of preparation. It is not about calling to mind weakness and failure. It is not simply about resolving to do better – to pray better, to love better, to live better. It is, much more, about calling to mind and giving thanks for all that is good: those relationships which nourish our lives and our humanity; those activities which make us feel fulfilled; all the things we do well and see others doing well. Let us encourage one another to build on what is good – in our parish, in our communities and in our homes – and then let our distractions fall gently by the way. Thus we will prepare with joy – and this is what this holy season is all about.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** James, Albert, Alan, 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, Lily, Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Martin, Mavis, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Sister, Nijole, Josie, Stephen, Bernard, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

**Latently Dead:** Eric Walker, Ann (McDermott) Richards, Jack Ryan (Fr Michael Ryan's father), Brian Aldred, Sean Daly, Eileen Martha Cruise, Vincent Fernandez, Brenda McDonald, Emily (age 8, tragically killed on the road in Monton), Christopher Peter Fanning, Marie Anna Mazeika, David Regan.

**Anniversaries:** Thomas Stanley Dickinson, Patrocino Gigante, Honoria McTigue, Norman Reed, Mary Smith, Alexander Iddon, Paula McLernon-Wilson, Charles Geeney, Frances and Michael Lavin, Cecelia Jackson, Hilda Mary and Frederick Blohm, Mary Gribbin, Bill Richardson.

**Remembrance:** Carrie Tucker, Pelosi family, Agnes Geeney, Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, Patrick Cromey, Edna Smith.

**We also pray:** for Fr Livesey, Sonny (100th Birthday), in thanksgiving, 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 ADVENT CHALLENGE! \*\*\*

Copies of the CAFOD "World Gifts" catalogue for Christmas are still available as you leave church—an alternative idea for Christmas where, instead of giving someone a gift they do not need, you send a valuable gift to the developing world on their behalf, and give them a card to let them know. **AND, AS A PARISH?** Last year, Holy Cross, St Matthew's and St Gilbert's aimed to raise £750 to provide a village water supply—and actually achieved a wonderful £1,646. Now, of course, our new parish is much larger—so the challenge for this year, set by our "Hope in the Future" Committee: **Can we raise £2,250 for three village water supplies? Are we up for it??**

## NEW PARISH NAME

It is fortunate that all of our shortlisted name choices from the recent consultation were submitted for consideration by the Bishop as the parish amalgamation was finalised, along with several others, just over a week ago. Our choices were considered in order, even though it was the final suggestion (which had itself received a not-insignificant 52 votes) which was granted to us. Thank you to all who worked so carefully on the shortlisting, and thank you all for your suggestions and for voting at Mass. As you know, we are now formally reconstituted as the Parish of St John Paul II—a wonderful modern-day saint. One final reminder:

- **St Mary's Church is still called St Mary's.**
- **Holy Cross Church is still called Holy Cross.**

## St MATTHEW'S CHURCH

The Polish heritage group that we hope will make good use of the church building at St Matthew's is currently working with the diocese in expectation of a formal contract. Several items from the church have now, as discussed at the meeting on 23rd October, been transferred to our schools: Our Lady statue to Holy Cross and All Saints, St Joseph statue and Crib to St Gilbert's, Stations of the Cross to St Mary's. Some books have also been transferred to St Mary's Church, and other items will be moved soon. You will be kept informed of progress. In the meantime, please be vigilant—if you are passing the church and see anything suspicious do, please, let the parish office know (or the police if it is a matter of urgency).

## MEETING for READERS at St MARY'S

As we continue our work of integrating our three constituent communities into the two churches of Holy Cross and St Mary's, our next group meeting is for **all Readers** and, once again, it seems only fair that it take place at St Mary's where the changes are being felt more strongly. This will be **in church on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm.**

## MEETING of EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**Thank you** to the large number of Ministers who attended the meeting last week at St Mary's Church. New rotas will now be produced, and we are confident that all Masses can be fully served and no volunteers be left out. **Any Ministers who could not attend, please collect a booklet from Fr Martin.**

## MEETING of ALTAR SERVERS

**Thank you** to all of the Altar Servers who attended the meeting last week at St Mary's. We now have in place the beginnings of a system whereby servers from Holy Cross, St Matthew's or St Mary's will equally be able to serve at any of the Masses. Do bear with us as the changes are introduced—not everything may be as smooth as we would prefer in the beginning! There will be a short training session after the 9.30am Mass today for prospective new servers—all that is required of them is that children have completed the First Communion programme and are committed to regular attendance at Mass. **Any Servers who could not attend last Wednesday, please collect a booklet from Fr Martin.**

## OFFERTORY

**Collection:** 1st/2nd December: See print version  
Advent Challenge: See print version

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

**No retiring collection** this week or next...  
**...but the Advent Challenge goes on!**

- *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

## NEW MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday (Vigil Mass):</b>	6.15pm at Holy Cross
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	9.30am at St Mary's 11.00am at Holy Cross (with Children's Liturgy throughout the academic year) <i>Tea and Coffee served after morning Mass at Holy Cross and as announced at St Mary's</i>
<b>Sunday Evening:</b>	6.15pm at St Mary's
<b>Weekdays:</b>	See Weekday Calendar below
<b>Holydays:</b>	As announced beforehand

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross  
Saturday: 11.00-11.50am at St Mary's  
and 5.45-6.05pm 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 10th December)*

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>11.00am Mass</b> at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>12.30pm Funeral Mass</b> at St Mary's for the late Eileen Martha Cruise. <i>May she rest in peace</i> 7.00pm Meeting for all Parish Readers at St Mary's Church
<b>Wednesday:</b>	8.45am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at Holy Cross followed by <b>9.15am Mass</b> Also <b>12 noon Mass</b> at St Mary's with Fr Livesey
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b> at St Mary's with Fr Livesey Also <b>12 noon Mass</b> at St Mary's 7.00pm Choir Rehearsal for Christmas at Holy Cross Church— <i>new singers and instrumentalists welcome!</i>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>12 noon Mass</b> at St Mary's with Fr Livesey 2.00pm-4.00pm "Christmas Café" at St Gilbert's School. <i>See separate entry below—All welcome!</i> 6.30pm <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at Holy Cross followed by <b>7pm Mass</b> and Divine Mercy
<b>Saturday (daytime):</b>	11.00am <b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> at St Mary's followed by <b>12 noon Mass</b> and Novena

## Christmas Mass Times

Many people are asking, understandably, what will now be happening with Masses for Christmas in the new parish. We feel that, with the numbers expected on Christmas Eve, it will be necessary to continue with two evening Masses and then, on Christmas Day, there will also be a morning Mass in each church (with Fr Dermot Byrne MHM officiating at one of these). The times will be as follows:

### Christmas Eve

**5.30pm at Holy Cross** Vigil of Readings and Carols followed by **First Mass** of Christmas with mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments served afterwards  
*(This is a family celebration with children from all three primary schools)*

**9.00pm at St Mary's** Christmas Mass

### Christmas Day

**9.30am at St Mary's** Christmas Morning Mass  
**11.00am at Holy Cross** Christmas Morning Mass

## HELP NEEDED, PLEASE, at BAPTISMS

In recent years, Baptisms at Holy Cross have taken place after Mass on the third Sunday of the month (except during Lent and in December). However, in order to maintain Baptisms now at both Holy Cross and St Mary's, a new arrangement on a four-week cycle has been made to fit in with the rolling programme of Mass cover from Fr Patrick and the Spiritans. Baptisms will be as announced and, a fortnight beforehand, families will attend a special "Rite of Welcome" at Mass. **We need more volunteers to support with Baptisms**—especially at St Mary's. Please speak to Fr Martin or Sister Jenny. Thank you.

## ADVANCE NOTICE—BISHOP'S VISITATION

Bishop John will be visiting our parish of St John Paul II on the weekend of 5th/6th January, and will most probably be at all Masses. He will also wish to meet, informally, with our parish committees and other groups whilst he is here. We look forward to welcoming him in happier times than his recent visit on the sad occasion of the closure of St Matthew's.

## 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**  
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*

## 8th/9th December 2018

This week we pray for:

- The parishes of St. Kentigern, Fallowfield, and St. Edward, Rusholme, with Canon Cleary.
- The parish of St. Hilda, Tottington, with Fr. Cannon.
- The Society of African Missions, and Opus Dei.
- The Divine Mercy Primary School and Xaverian College.



## FUNERAL of Mr JACK RYAN

The funeral of Jack, father of Fr Michael Ryan, will take place this Tuesday (11th December), 11am at the church of St Hugh of Lincoln, Timperley.

## CHRISTMAS CAFÉ at St GILBERT'S SCHOOL

Come along to the school on Friday (14th December) for tea, coffee, mince pies, biscuits, Christmas raffle etc. Refreshments at 2.00pm, and a mini Christmas Fair from 3.15pm onwards. All welcome!

## CHRISTMAS BINGO

By popular request, there will be a Christmas Bingo evening at Holy Cross Community Hall **next Sunday** (16th December), from 6-8pm. All most welcome from both sides of the parish—let's build our sense of Community!

## PARISH WEBSITE

The website will soon be "rebranded" under the new parish name of St John Paul II. The amalgamation pages will then be taken down, and updates will be expedited to ensure both sides of the parish are fully reflected in the site. Comments are, as always, most welcome.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO

Thank you to all those who worked so hard in planning this event last week and in making it such a success on the day. Thank you also to all the families who supported it. There will be more events to follow, we can be sure!

## PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you to Veronica for her organisation, to Jaine for providing lifts in the minibuses, and to all who took part in any way in this annual event which serves so well to bring together our varied communities.