



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

2nd
Sunday of
Advent

Daily
Prayer
Week 2

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

The second candle on our Advent Wreath is lit. This holy season moves ever closer to our celebration of Christmas—the joyful reminder that God loved us so much that he came to be born amongst us, to show us the way to salvation through his life, death and resurrection. And it is a reminder, too, that he did not return to heaven to leave us alone, but rather so that we might experience his presence for all time in the grace of the Holy Spirit, and that one day he would come again. Advent is about preparing for that coming—not just an anniversary date that we celebrate on December 25th—a real and future coming when we trust in Jesus to bring us, rejoicing, to our eternal home.

How do we prepare for the coming of our God amidst the hustle and bustle of the Christmas shopping season, the threats of Covid 19, the frayed tempers and the fears of debt? Are we, as it were, "wading through treacle" in an attempt to respect and celebrate the holiness of Advent whilst the world around us is involved in pursuits which are so different? Are we to look at our secular preparations and simply reproach ourselves for getting so absorbed in the affairs of the world that our spiritual needs go untended? Is our spiritual Advent nothing more than a pause, when we get the chance, to feel momentarily guilty about our lapses, before we return and continue where we left off?

Today's readings seem to suggest otherwise. Four writers—Baruch, the Psalmist, Paul and Luke (speaking of John the Baptist)—all recognise the need in their hearers to change and to grow in their preparation for something greater. But none uses reproach, none focuses on the wrongs or lapses that brought about the need for change—instead, the preparation they encourage is joyful. Look forward to the reasons why we wish to grow! 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 joy they had shared together, and use the happy memories to

grow even more. And for John the Baptist—the voice preaching repentance, because "all peoples will see the salvation of God."

Here, then, lies our best chance to prepare. It is not about calling to mind weakness and failure. It is not even about resolving to do better—to pray better, to love better, to live better. It is 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, and let our distractions fall gently by the way. Then we prepare with joy—and that is what this holy season is all about.

Let us pray for the grace to use this Advent season wisely. We must face up to so many challenges. We must recognise that "peace on earth" is far from the agendas of some of the more powerful groups and individuals in our world today. May we, by the joy of Christ, become a part of the solution to this world's many problems and not, by our preoccupations, intransigence, negativity—or even, at times, our bitterness—find ourselves contributing to the problems themselves. May we indeed become ambassadors to the true meaning of the Incarnation.

ADVENT CHALLENGE!

Our challenge this advent is to raise £1,545.00, in support of CAFOD and Mary's Meals. £750 will provide a life-saving community water supply to a village in the developing world, whilst the remaining £795 will provide school meals for a year to 50 needy children in the many poverty-stricken and war-torn countries in which Mary's Meals operate. (This year, this will be match-funded to bring the total supported up to 100 children. **Are we up to the challenge?** we will be collecting from next week, and labelled donations may be made in any form you prefer. Thank you!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE on FRIDAY

Many people have struggled with seeking Confessions during the pandemic. On Friday at 6pm, during the Holy Hour at Holy Cross, we will be holding a special Advent Reconciliation Service with Confessions available with Fr Martin, Fr John (from St Mary's) and Fr Jan Klaver. Join us as part of your own preparation for Christmas—come for the Sacrament or simply come to pray with us all.

LOAVES AND FISHES

Thank you to those who have already resumed bringing in non-perishable foodstuffs to support the homeless around us. **Could you spare £5** to give a Christmas dinner to someone who really needs it? Please take a leaflet from the back of church—or just scan the QR Code (right)!



OR: Helping families with nothing, Loaves and Fishes are short of Christmas gifts for teenagers. Do you have any unwanted gifts from last year? Or could you bring in a football, skateboard, toiletries etc? More ideas will be announced.

BAPTISM & COMMUNION PROGRAMMES

Baptisms: Please pray for Rory and Rosie, who were baptised at Holy Cross last week.

First Communion Programme—NEW LAUNCH: Meetings for parents of Y3 children upwards are now scheduled for Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December, both at Holy Cross Church. These will launch the new programme in preparation for the Sacraments next summer. Please attend either of these meetings, and **fill in the application form on the parish website HERE.**

Presentation of certificates (which will take place during Mass) for our last two cohorts will be arranged initially through the schools, with special arrangements to be made for the children who are not in our parish schools.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEET etc

This week's "Look" leaflet for your children can be found [HERE](#). The "Lord's Day at Home" sheet has now been discontinued.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Peter, Rifa, Barbara, Rosa (baby), Edna, Linda, Fr Peter CSSP, Ann-Marie, Liz, Stephen, Elizabeth, Irene, Shane, Sidney, Margaret, Carole, Marjorie, Geoff, Anne, Paulina, Agnes, Alan, Margaret, Peter, Ann, Paul, Allan, Keith, Gwyneth, Joan, Karen, Kenneth, Patrick, Kathleen, Pat, Doreen, Helen, Bridget, Sara, Tara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Carol, Sarah, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick, David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Ann, Patrick, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Frances, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, John, Joan, Paul, Peter, Maureen, Pat, Patrick, David, Sister Maureen, Yvonne, Terry, Betty, 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, Elaine, Ellen, Glens, 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, Nicola, Don, Nijole, Ken, Stephen, Mildred.

Lately Dead: Jayne Brackenridge, Pauline Ann Healey, Maria Velasquez, Sheila Cole, Fr Lionel Devaney, Terry Smith, Sheila Devlin, Ken Furness, Kath Royle, Margaret Wilcock, Stuart Sinclair, Dorothy Siddall (née Maguire), Sr Virginia Maingi FMSJ, Edward Patrick Corcoran, Teresa Lynagh, David Downey.

Anniversaries: Patrocino Gigante, Sunmal, Hilary, William, Charlotte, Regina, Lily McNamara (Birthday Anniversary), Mary and Frank Gribbin, Norman Reed, Esther Knowles, Charles Hannon, Charles Geeney, Paula McLernon Wilson, Kevin Martin Smith (Birthday Anniversary), John McGahran, Brendan Crowe, Norman Helps (Snr), Eileen Tighe, Sonny Shannon, Lucy Kennedy (Birthday Anniversary), Kevin Martin Smith (Birthday Anniversary), Stase Zagorskiene.

Remembrance: Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, Joseph and George Flatley.

We also pray: in thanksgiving, for migrants, for the people of Afghanistan, for peace all around the world, and for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for the Syro-Malabar community, for each of our schools, and for our Sacramental Programme families. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout the Covid-19 crisis and for all those suffering from the disease, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers and for a number of special intentions.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES from NEXT WEEK

Saturday (Vigil Mass): 6.00pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning: 9.30am at Holy Cross
11.15am at Holy Cross

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

Weekdays: See Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions currently available, 11.10-11.45am on Saturdays
in the Parish Meeting Room at Holy Cross (not the Confessional).
Please be guided by the stewards

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 in Red

Saturday 4th Dec: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)

Sunday 5th: 9.30am Mass at Holy Cross
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross

*All Services at St Mary's are
suspended during the
renovation works*

Monday 6th: Sorry, no Mass on Mondays

Tuesday 7th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)

(The Immaculate Conception) Wednesday 8th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)

Thursday 9th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross (Livestreamed)

1.00pm Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for the late Jayne Brackenridge. *May she rest in peace*

Friday 10th: 6.00pm Advent Reconciliation Service followed by 7.00pm Mass (Livestreamed)

Saturday 11th: 12 noon Mass at Holy Cross following a Holy Hour from 11.00am (Livestreamed)

6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (Livestreamed)

This Mass will continue to be available on the [Sunday Mass](#) page of our website on Sunday and throughout the week, and on our [Facebook Page](#). It can also be viewed live (and for one week afterwards) on our [YouTube channel](#).

THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD

Pope Francis has called a Universal Synod which is taking place in every Catholic diocese across the world. The Synod is themed: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". We want to hear from as many people as possible, those involved in the church and those who are not. You can take part by completing an online submission, following this link:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3D3FXJ2. Please share this link with family and friends. We have until 1st March 2022 to make our submissions then, after national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard. Please remember the Synod in your prayers. Your contribution is invaluable and will make a considerable difference to the future of the Church in our diocese and across the world.

ADVENT WREATH from CHURCHES TOGETHER

The picture, to colour and display in your front window can be downloaded from [HERE](#) if you have not already received one.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale after each Mass—but please try to maintain social distancing at the desks. The main prize has been generously donated by the Dale family in memory of their mother, Betty Dale. There is also a substantial drinks hamper being raffled. Tickets at £1 each, £5 for a strip.

COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £637.05. Thank you also to all who donate [online](#), by Standing Order and via the contactless device at the back of church. Thank you for your continued generosity in these difficult times.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week we pray, throughout the Diocese, for the people of the parishes of Our Lady and St Patrick, Walton-le-Dale and St Mary and St John Southworth, Sablesbury, with Fr Philip Nathaniel, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

May the Immaculate Mother of God protect and guided them.

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND at St John Paul II

All our Services this Christmas will be at Holy Cross as, unfortunately, the works at St Mary's Church will not be completed in time. Our Mass times will be as follows:

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve)—Family First Mass of Christmas at 5.30pm (with Christmas music from 5.00pm). This will also be livestreamed.

Additional Mass for Christmas Night: 8.30pm

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)—Christmas Morning Masses at 9.30am and 11.15am. (No Saturday evening Mass on Christmas day)

Sunday 26th December (Holy Family)—Sunday Morning Masses at 9.30am and 11.15am. (The 11.15am Mass will be livestreamed).

Calling Stewards, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and musicians! If you are available willing to serve at any of these Masses, please contact the parish office and leave a message to say when you can be here. Those who have taken a break during Covid and now feel comfortable returning will be most welcome. (Musicians must take a lateral flow test before singing). Thank you!

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
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: 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

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

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey