

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

3rd Sunday of Advent

YEAR A

Morning Prayer Week 3

Is Jesus really the One?

Today's Gospel gives us a picture of uncertainty in the midst of what seemed such a clear revelation of Jesus as the Messiah. We have heard John the Baptist calling the people to a change of heart, to repent of their past misdeeds and turn to the one who was to come, to the one who would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John was the voice, preparing the way, but his power was as nought compared to the power of the one whose way he was preparing. But was Jesus the one? Was the evidence so clear?

Now, John is a prisoner of the king, Herod. He knows his work is done, but has he succeeded? Has he achieved what God had called him to do? Was Jesus really the new leader his disciples should follow now?

Like any one of us taking stock of our lives, John is troubled by doubt. He sends his disciples to ask Jesus openly: "Are you the one?" Why? Because the evidence does not quite seem to fit. John's preparation seemed to be for the coming of a powerful judge who would punish wrongdoing and reward the just with great gifts from God. But Jesus is somehow ... well ... different. His trademarks seem to be giving the blind their sight, giving hearing to the deaf, letting the lame walk again, and even raising the dead. So is he really the one?

Only faith can give the answer to that question, and from Jesus's reply, John, like the rest of us, must make up his

mind in faith, and judge for himself the truth, from what Jesus does and says.

Only one thing is certain - that Jesus believes in John! And he believes in us, too.

FOOD BAGS FOR 'LOAVES AND FISHES'

You would have seen, last week, the wonderful response so far for this parish appeal. Our local charity, 'Loaves and Fishes', will have great demand for its services over the festive season. What a difference it would make if each of our families donated a bag of food! If you have not already given, or considered donating a bag of non-perishable foodstuffs, there is still time. Are we 'in'?

APPEAL FOR MUSICIANS!

Christmas Eve at Holy Cross. Thank you to those who have already expressed a willingness to be involved. We are still looking, ideally, for a trumpeter and violinist if anyone would like to volunteer! Parts will be provided. Please speak to Fr. Martin or Ellen at Holy Cross. Our second rehearsal will take place tomorrow (Monday), 7.00pm at Holy Cross Church. For your diary: Our celebration will begin with a short vigil of readings and carols at 6.30pm, leading in to the First Mass of Christmas. Mulled wine, mince pies etc. available in the community hall afterwards.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The draw will take place in the Community Hall after Mass next Sunday (December 18th)—please ensure all tickets/moneys as well as cash and prize donations are in **before** that date. Thank you for all your support and thank you to those who have worked so hard in organising the Draw this year.

BACON BUTTIES AND BOARD GAMES!

At the suggestion of our **Youth leaders**, the occasion of the Christmas Draw will also trial a development from our regular tea & coffee after Mass at Holy Cross. This time there will be bacon butties & cheese on toast available for purchase, and board games organised for our young people. **Altar servers, perhaps lead the way??**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Desmond, Eamon, Maureen, John, Stefa, Cecelia, Joan, Janice, Bill, Monica, Audrey, Annie, Jackie, Ann, Malcolm, Harvey, Claire, Louise and baby Maisy, Lewis (12 yrs. old), Caitlin (age 11), Loren (age 17), Marie, Paddy, John, Megan, Martin, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Billy, Dennis, Gerald, May, Louise, Lily, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Pam, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Joseph, Martin, Ishrat, Elaine, Jayne and Christian, Mavis, Antony, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Bernard, Vera, Jack and Joan, Kevin, Pat, John.

Lately Dead: Desmond Joseph O'Reilly, Susan Welby, Joyce Parker, Maureen Hitchcock, Cecelia Jackson, Talaina Cullen (age 17 from Rochdale), Pauline Simpson, John McGrogan, John Flynn.

Anniversaries: Mary Smith, Alexander James Iddon, Thomas Stanley Dickinson, Theresa Callaghan, Charles Hannan, Daniel Williams, Sarah Corcoran, Martin Corcoran, Fred Slater, Paula Wilson (née McLernon), Joseph Cawley, Philip Cusack, Frances Lavin, Liam Conlan, Esther Knowles.

Remembrance: Winnie Roddy, Rafferty, Neale, Salinger and Newton families.

We also pray: for the future 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, Mike
9.00am: Please log in or see list in church
10.30am: Josie, Linta

OFFERTORY

Collection: Please see printed version

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection
Next week: No retiring collection next week

- *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: 11.00am-11.50am at St Matthew's
and 6.00pm-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 12th December)

Monday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass 7.00pm Music Rehearsal for Christmas—all welcome
Tuesday:	9.00am Morning Prayer at St Matthew's followed by 9.15am Mass 6.00pm St Gilbert's school Candlelight Service at Holy Cross Church
Wednesday:	8.45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 9.15am Mass 6.30pm Holy Cross & All Saints' School Christmas Concert at Holy Cross Church
Thursday:	9.15am Advent Mass at Holy Cross and All Saints' School —All welcome 7.00pm Meeting for Youth Leaders, Holy Cross Parish Meeting Room
Friday:	6.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Cross followed by 7pm Mass and Divine Mercy
Saturday:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Matthew's followed by 12 noon Mass and Novena

CHRISTMAS CAFÉ

Thank you to **Holy Cross and All Saints' School** for organising the "Christmas Café" event—afternoon tea for the parish and school community on Friday 2nd December. We value greatly the role of our schools in the parish, and this occasion was greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. We must apologise that the parish newsletter entry promoting this was inadvertently removed two weeks before the event took place. We are sorry if some of you missed out because of this.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The St Gilbert's school Community Christmas Dinner takes place in school **this Tuesday** (13th December) at 11.30am. Admission is by ticket, available from Bridget Darcy or Anne-Marie Horrocks after Mass. There is no charge for the tickets, but they will be required for catering purposes.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Thank you to those who supported our Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday last week, and to Frs Dermot Byrne and Jan Klaver who came along to assist with hearing Confessions. It was a worthwhile occasion, albeit not so well attended as we might have preferred. Please look out for such events again, in both Advent and Lent.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER 7TH DECEMBER

Thank you to all who supported the parish Christmas Dinner at Boysnope Golf Club last Wednesday—and a special thank you to Veronica for all her organising skills. A great time was had by all!

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS!

Church cleaning, in preparation for Christmas at Holy Cross, will take place after 9.15am Mass on Wednesday 21st December. Please speak to Pat, or just turn upon the day—all assistance will be gratefully received! Thank you.

EVENT FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH

Thanks have been expressed for the support and contributions from parishioners to the appeal from the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Eccles Grand Lodge, in support of dementia research. To date, the appeal has raised £1,635.00 for the valuable work of this charity. Please see the Lodge's letter of thanks in the "current" section of the noticeboard at Holy Cross.

PRAYER CARDS FOR VOCATIONS

Cards are still available after Mass to assist us to discern our vocation in life, and to pray for those who might have a special calling by God—to family life, to Priesthood or Diaconate, to Religious or Consecrated life, and to the 'Mission' to which we are all called as Christians. Please take a card and consider using the short prayers it contains for each day of the week. Thank you.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Martin A Collins GTCL
Telephone: 0161 789 4424
Mobile: 07502 633383
Email: frmartin@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
or via contact form on the parish website.

Parish Secretary: Mr Paul Boardman
Telephone: 0161 789 4424 (Mon & Wed, 10am-4pm)
Email: 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)
Telephone: 0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm)
0161 707 9537 all other times
Email: srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Community Hall: All enquiries to Mrs Anne Benyon
Telephone: 07580 571839

Holy Cross RC Church

Liverpool Road
Patricroft
Eccles
M30 8QD

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Email:

St Matthew's RC Church

Worsley Road
Winton
Eccles
M30 8BL

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

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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey