



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

4th
Sunday of
Advent
YEAR A
Morning
Prayer
Week 4

LIVING THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Part 3: INTRODUCTORY RITES: Opening Hymns

Last week we talked about the gathering before Mass begins. However this has been done, we still need to move into the celebration – and we normally do this in song, either with an antiphon or more commonly an Opening Hymn. The purpose of this singing is to bind us together more strongly as one body in worship – think of the way in which football chants unite a disparate crowd of spectators into a united (sorry!) band of supporters. Singing in church is not always easy, however. When talking about music in Mass you can seem to be tap dancing in a minefield! Questions of taste, suitability, personal likes and dislikes can abound. There are some who simply dislike music, or any singing at Mass, and will resolutely refuse to join in with anything, be it plainchant or Gospel rock! Sometimes it can feel as though music divides, rather than

unites us! To overcome this demands selflessness, and a putting aside of personal tastes. Those responsible for choosing music at Mass should be aware of different styles of music, while always striving for music that is suitable for the liturgy, and which aims to bring people together into the celebration. All who attend should do their best to take part, selflessly sacrificing their own tastes and prejudices to be part of the one assembly which will very soon be told “The Lord be with you!” Since it will soon be Christmas, listen out for the ways in which familiar carols achieve this, letting people know where we are and what we are doing, and how they bind us into one body, ready to meet the Lord who comes to us!

*** PARISH ADVENT CHALLENGE ***

We're struggling a little at the moment, with less than £1,000 raised towards the challenge of £2,500—though this will rise significantly when we add the contributions from our three primary schools to next week's total. We will keep the collection open into the Christmas season. (Last year we exceeded our target of £2,250, but it took us until the end of January—so there's still time!)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Patrick, Sister Jenny, Clifford, Frances, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, John, Joan, Paul, Peter, Fr Philip, Maureen, Pat, David, Kyle, Finn (age 11)—now making a good recovery, Patrick, David, Sister Maureen, Yvonne, Therisia, Terry, Betty, Mr George, Kathleen, Colette, Stanley, Patricia, Marion, Adam, Jake, Sue, Betty, Sylvie, Patricia, Yves, Win, Joy, Tricia, Barry, Marie, Catherine, James, Alan, Betty, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Eunice, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Joan, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Sister Olivia, Fr Connelly, Jean, Vincent, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Bernard, Elaine, Ellen, Glenes, Sheila, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Sheila, Martin, Joanne, John, Joan, Janice, Bill, Marie, John, Kenneth, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, May, Louise, Peggy, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Sylvia, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Sister Alphonsus, Sister Regina, Nijole, Stephen, David, Jack and Joan, Kevin.

Lately Dead: John O'Kell, Tess O'Grady, Steve Singh, Joseph Brooks, Michael Norohna, John O'Kell, Mary Doherty, Fr Eddie McCann, Fred Vas, Jean Tasker, John Edmund Starkie, Rose Tuohy, Brian Wilson, Fr Michael Hoare, Mary Rice (former deputy headteacher at St Patrick's High School), David Roddy.

Anniversaries: Steve Unitt, Margaret Mary Galbraith, Colette Scott, Sushannah Costello, Elaine Murphy, Vincent McElvenny, Eileen Collins, Alexander Iddon, Molly Maher, Honora McTigue, Patrocino B. Gigante, Norman Reed, Andrew Tighe, Paula McLernon Wilson.

Remembrance: Barbara, Eileen and Harry Banks, Richard and May Mellins, Winifred and Bill Hampton, Carrie Tucker, Gerard and Herbert Nicholls, Mary and George Sewell, Annie and Fred Whittaker, Patrick, Margaret and Peter Keigher, Alan and Annie McDonald, Winifred Wilcock, Winnie and Patrick Roddy, Pelosi, McDermott, Fanning, Baxter, Platt and Williams families.

We also pray: for Jean, Jane and Neill, 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.

ALTERNATIVE CELEBRATION of the NEW YEAR

We're all used to the TV, Pub, Socials, fireworks... But would you be interested in an **alternative celebration of New Year**, inviting Our Lord to be a part of it right from the outset? We will be holding a special **New Year Mass at 11.30pm on New Year's Eve** at Holy Cross Church—then, as the fireworks start to go off outside, we should be coming towards Holy Communion. After Mass, we will be able to toast the New Year in a more traditional way. (There will also be an 11am Mass on New Year's Day at St Mary's Church for those who prefer not to be out so late.)

SISTER JENNY

Sister Jenny is making excellent progress at the Franciscan Convent in Blackburn in convalescence. She is most grateful for all your prayers—do please continue to pray for her full recovery. For those on baptismal programmes, please email us at the office to let us know where you are up to, and we will pass information on to Frances who will follow things up as soon as possible, though this may be in the New Year. **Thank you to those who have already contacted us in this way**, and thank you for your patience in bearing with us during this time.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to all who supported the hamper raffle, and especially to Ged and Pam for their generous donations of the hampers. Congratulations to our winners: White 195 (Monica) and White 199 (Joshua). Both have been contacted. The raffle raised £486.12 towards our renovation works. Thank you once again.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are sought to assist in the task of cleaning and preparing our churches on **Monday**, at 10.00am. Thank you!

OFFERTORY

Collection:	14th/15th December	See print version
	Christmas Hamper Raffle	See print version
	Breakfast/Brunch with Santa:	See print version
	Advent Challenge	See print version
	Challenge total so far:	See print version

Thank you

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week & next: the **CHALLENGE CONTINUES!**

- *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): 6.15pm at Holy Cross
Sunday Morning: 9.30am at St Mary's
11.00am at Holy Cross
(with Children's Liturgy throughout the academic year)
*Refreshments served after morning Mass at Holy Cross
and as announced at St Mary's*
Sunday Evening: 6.15pm at St Mary's
Weekdays: See Weekday Calendar below
Holydays: As announced beforehand

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Usual times: Friday: 6.30-6.50pm at Holy Cross
Saturday: 11.00-11.45am 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 23rd December)*

Monday: 9.00am Morning Prayer at **Holy Cross** followed by 9.15am **Eucharistic Service**
10.00am Church Cleaning at both our churches—volunteers most welcome to assist!

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Vigil of Readings and Carols followed by the **First Mass of Christmas** — all at **Holy Cross**
(This is a family celebration with children from all three primary schools)
Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments will be served afterwards — do, please, stay a while!
9.00pm Mass for Christmas Night at St Mary's

Christmas Day

9.30am Mass at St Mary's
11.00am Mass at Holy Cross

Thursday: **12 noon Mass at St Mary's**
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 Mary's** followed by **12 noon Mass** and Novena



DIOCESAN ALMANACS

The new almanacs are now available from our piety shops, priced at £3.50. Unlike last year's publication (which we never released) this has been produced by a new publishing company and gives accurate information about the diocese at this time—all relevant contact details for diocesan offices, parishes, clergy and schools, lists of addresses, Mass times and lots of other useful information. With so many changes having taken place in recent years, these will certainly bring you up to date.

MISSION APPEAL—ADVANCE NOTICE

Each year, a Missionary group is given authorisation by the Bishop to carry out a major appeal across the diocese. This year, these appeals will be made by the Marists, and here in the parish of St John Paul II our appeal is coming up very soon, in the new year. We therefore look forward to welcoming Brother John McAllister to all Masses on the weekend of 4th/5th January, when he will speak about the work of their missionaries in education and pastoral care in Oceania, South Asia, Africa and South America. Retiring collections will be taken in support of their work.

CHRISTMAS CRIBS

Thank you to the Carrig family, (St Mary's), and the Morrissey family, (Holy Cross), for setting up our magnificent Nativity scenes.

21st/22nd December 2019



This week we pray for: the people of the parish of St. John Fisher, Kearsley, for Fr. Bryan Cunningham, their parish priest, and for the Schoenstatt Community.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

These are now available at the end of Mass for each household, with details of our Christmas services and best wishes for the Christmas season. Our thanks to the schools—in many cases the pupil chaplains—who took on the task of folding and sealing some 1,000 or so of these cards this year! Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our main "family" celebration of Christmas takes place at Holy Cross with a short Vigil of Readings and Carols, led by our joint choirs and a children's choir drawn from each of our primary schools, leading straight into the first Mass of Christmas with a children's procession to the crib. (The renowned soloist Liam McNally will also be joining us). Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments will then be served at a Christmas party following on afterwards in the Community Hall. Many of the musicians will later move over to St Mary's for our second Mass at 9pm. Then, on Christmas morning, Masses will be 9.30am at St Mary's and 11.00am at Holy Cross.

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 Halls Hire: Enquiries to Steve Jackson
Telephone: 07580 571839
New 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: 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