

**HOLY CROSS, PATRICROFT
and
ST MATTHEW'S, WINTON**

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Ryan
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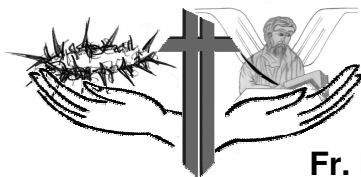
Fr. Michael's Email (confidential): hcsmeccles@yahoo.co.uk

Parish website: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Parish Secretary: Paul Boardman Email: secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk
Secretary's hours: Mon and Wed 10.00am – 4.00pm

Holy Cross and All Saints RC Primary School: 0161 789 4386

St Gilberts RC Primary School: 0161 789 5035



**2nd Sunday of Advent
Psalter week 2**

**MASS AND SERVICE TIMES
8th – 14th December 2008**

		Holy Cross	St Matthew's
Monday	SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Funeral Mass for Mark Canney	10.00am	
Tuesday	<i>Advent Service of Word and Communion</i>		9.15am
Wednesday	Advent Weekday Mass	9.15am	
Thursday	Advent Weekday Mass		9.15am
Friday	<i>Rosary</i> Advent Weekday Mass (Taize)	6.40pm 7.00pm	
Saturday	<i>Benediction</i> St. Lucy <i>Devotions to the Perpetual Succour</i>		11.50am 12noon after Mass
Saturday (Vigil)	1 st Advent Mass of Sunday "Gaudete" Sunday	6.30pm	
Sunday	Advent Mass <i>Advent Evening Prayer of the Church</i>	11.30am 3.30pm	9am

Morning Prayer: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 11.15am – 11.45am at St. Matthew's
Saturday 5.45pm – 6.10pm at Holy Cross**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Sat 11am – 11.50am at St. Matthew's

**Baptisms: By appointment
(2 months notice to be given)**

**Marriages: By appointment
(6 months notice to be given)**

SOCIAL & PASTORAL GROUP: Next meeting is Thursday 8th January 2009 at 7pm in our Parish Hall. See notice board for minutes of last meeting.

ABC FAITH GROUP: Meeting this Wednesday, 7.15pm at Holy Cross Presbytery. All welcome – come and learn more about your Catholic faith.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2009

Our cluster pilgrimage to Rome will be from 11th - 18th September 2009. The cost is approx £700 - only when all flights have been booked can a final price be given. The price is on a B&B basis in a hotel close to St. Peter's. It also includes a day trip to Assisi.

See Fr. Michael for a booking form - the deposit is £180.

Please be aware that single rooms cannot be guaranteed - the single supplement is £171.50. **Final booking deadline is January 5th.**

BAPTISM: Congratulations to *Alexander Royle* who was baptised last weekend. We welcome him into the family of the church. **The next baptism course is Saturday 20th December at 2.30pm at Holy Cross Presbytery – the last one this year. See Fr. Michael if you would like to come.**

SVP: Next SVP meeting is 7pm on this Monday (8th Dec) at Holy Cross Presbytery. December retiring collection next week.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

SICK: Bill Hand; Fred Johonnett; Stephen Curley; Louise Curley; Michael Duffy; Winifred Strenstrom; Maureen Lundy; Winnie Roddy; Joe Cawley; baby Oliver Williams; baby Peter Mark Carey; Mona Lindley; Anne Boyne; Marie Thompson; Catherine Ashton; Lily Prescott; Margaret Norton; Chris McHugh; Anne Rourke; Josie Brennan; Chris Baines; Dorothy Pirie; Philomena Noone; Margaret Ward; John Bosco Whitehead and Cecelia McFarlane. Please also remember the housebound, all in hospital, nursing and residential homes; Fr. Stephen Parkinson; Mgr. Paul Smith; Canon Denis Clinch; Fr. Jack Rigby; Fr. Pat Keane; Fr. Richard O'Connor; Fr. Francis Frost; Fr. John Reynolds; Fr. Stewart Ansbro; Fr. Aidan O'Reilly; Fr. Joseph Corcoran and Fr Michael Hartley.



ANNIVERSARIES: Leo McGovern. Ethel Doherty and Brian Hall

LATELY DEAD:

Mark Canney and Eric Blackburn whose funeral is on Friday at 11.40am at Peel Green Crematorium.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

HOLY CROSS	ST MATTHEW'S
£298.27	£258.86

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Christmas Bingo & Grand Draw** – next Sunday - 6pm in Parish Hall.
- **Christmas Musical Evening** – Sunday 4th Jan at St. Matthew's Church.
- **Parish Social and Pastoral Group** – Thurs 8th Jan in Parish Hall.
- **Churches together in Eccles "United Service for Christian Unity Week"** – Sunday 18th January – 7.00pm at Holy Cross.
- **Quiz Night** – Friday 6th February – 7.30pm in Parish Hall.
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham** – Saturday 2nd May.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: This week the children from Holy Cross and from St. Matthew's will be celebrating their First Reconciliation. St. Matthew's celebration is on Tuesday at 7pm and Holy Cross celebrates theirs on Thursday at 7pm. All are welcome to come to these celebrations where there will be an opportunity, for any one who wishes, to receive the sacrament before Christmas. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

ADVENT 2008 & THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

"Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was: He was rich but He became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of His poverty." 2 Corinthians 8:9
Let us use this season of Advent to really value our faith – to appreciate the great riches Christ has given us. So often these riches are swamped by the problems and burdens of daily life. Advent invites us to stop and once more value our faith - to clear the obstacles that stop us appreciating just how rich we are thanks to Christ. In the words of the prophet Isaiah from today's 1st reading, "Let every valley be filled in, every mountain be laid low...then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed". One important way to do this is to celebrate at least once this Advent the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To aid you spiritually in this time of preparation:

Solemn Evening Prayer of the Church - every Sunday of Advent - 3.30pm – 4pm.

Taize Advent Mass - every Friday in Advent 7pm at Holy Cross

Cluster Advent Reconciliation Service - Thurs 18th Dec at 7.30pm at St. Mary's, Eccles.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENING: Is on Sunday 4th January. If you would like to take part in the evening please contact David Glynn-Whitehead on 794 1006. Music, singing and poetry are all welcome.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: We had a good turn out on Wednesday evening considering how bad the weather was.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: This weekend there is a retiring collection for flowers for both churches for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: This year the first Mass of Christmas for both Holy Cross and St. Matthew's will be at 7.30 pm. Fr. David Quiligotti has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass at St. Matthew's. The morning Christmas Masses will be 9.00 am (St. Matthew's) and 11.30 am (Holy Cross).

ADVENT TAIZE MASS: Every Friday in Advent at 7pm at Holy Cross.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

On the Sunday's of Advent we shall celebrate "Solemn Evening Prayer of the Church" or as it is also known "Vespers". It begins at 3.30pm. Finishes 4pm.

This week at St. Matthew's. Church open at 3pm for quiet prayer.

AWAY FROM THE PULPIT: December's edition is now out. Please take a copy home and then pass onto a neighbour.

CHRISTMAS BINGO AND THE GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Next Sunday (14th December) in the Parish Hall beginning at 6pm.

£1 per adult, 50p per child.

This is always a great occasion for all members of the family.

Any suitable gifts for the tombola? Please bring them to church or see Shirley Parkes.

CAN ALL SOLD DRAW TICKETS BE HANDED IN BY THIS SATURDAY.

SCRIPTURE GROUP: Every Tuesday at 7pm in **St. Matthew's Church**. Why not come along for Advent – it's one way to prepare for Christmas.

CLUSTER ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and so prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas.

This is a cluster celebration and takes place at

St. Mary's on Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm.

Fr Mc Cann, Fr Livesey and Fr Michael will all be present.

ST MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE: After expenses the amount raised was £1302.96 – with a little more still come in. (Last year £1322.30) Many thanks and well done to all. It was a great day and a fantastic result!

CAROLS AT ECCLES CROSS: Churches Together in Eccles will be singing carols at Eccles Cross this Saturday at 11.00am. It is followed by a crib exhibition at 11.30am at Eccles Gateway and "A Nativity Story" at 3pm at St. Paul's in Monton.

200 CLUB NOVEMBER DRAW: £100 – 108 Sue Woodcock; £30 – 234 P. Ellington; £20 – 139 F. Smith; £10 – 243 K.Kerr.

HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE: For the First Mass of Christmas – this and the following Sunday mornings at 10.30am in Church.

HOLY CROSS CRIB: Volunteers are needed to help Chris Woodcock erect the crib at Holy Cross. If you can help Chris will be putting the crib up on Tuesday week (16th Dec) at 11.00am.

HALL CHRISTMAS DECORATING: We will be decorating the Parish Hall for our Christmas Bingo this Saturday at 2pm. All help gratefully received.

BARTON BROOK NURSING HOME: There is an Advent Mass this Friday at 2pm. All welcome to attend.