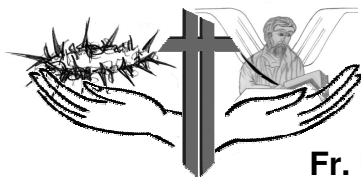


**HOLY CROSS, PATRICROFT
and
ST MATTHEW'S, WINTON**

Clustered with
St Gilbert's
&
St Mary's



Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Ryan
Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Rd, Patricroft,
Eccles, Manchester M30 8QD
Tel & Fax: 0161 789 4424

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

**3rd Sunday of Advent
"Gaudete" Sunday
Psalter Week 3 and Proper of Seasons**

**MASS AND SERVICE TIMES
15th – 21st December 2008**

		Holy Cross	St Matthew's
Monday	Advent Weekday Mass	N.B. <u>7.00pm</u>	
Tuesday	Advent Weekday Mass		9.15am
Wednesday	Advent Weekday Mass	9.15am	
Thursday	Advent Weekday Mass		9.15am
Friday	Advent Weekday Mass <i>Rosary</i> Advent Weekday Mass (Taize)	9.10am at Holy Cross School 6.40pm 7.00pm	
Saturday	<i>Benediction</i> Advent Weekday Mass <i>Devotions to the Perpetual Succour</i>		11.50am 12noon after Mass
Saturday (Vigil)	1 st Advent Mass of Sunday 4 th Sunday of Advent	6.30pm	
Sunday	Advent Mass <i>Advent Evening Prayer of the Church</i>	11.30am	9am 3.30pm

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

SVP: Next SVP meeting is on Monday 5th January at 7pm at St. Matthew's Presbytery. December's retiring collection takes place this weekend.

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 near St. Peter's and includes a day trip to Assisi. See Fr. Michael for a booking form - deposit is £180. The single supplement is £171.50. **Final booking deadline is January 5th.**

BAPTISM COURSE: this Saturday (20th December) at 2.30pm at Holy Cross Presbytery. See Fr. Michael if you would like to attend.

CHRISTMAS BINGO
AND THE GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Today (Sunday) 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.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SOLD DRAW TICKETS HAVE GIVEN IN.

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

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: Elsie Blackburn, Leslie Blackburn, Fred Slater, Frances McGovern and Mary Smith.

LATELY DEAD:

Nancy Murtagh.

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
£304.46	£262.83

ABC FAITH GROUP: The next meeting is this *Wednesday (17th December)* at 7.15pm in the presbytery. Come and learn about the Catholic Faith. All are welcome. This is the last one till the new year.

SALFORD ALMANAC: The 2009 edition is now on sale in both piety shops price £3. Has an up to date list of the parishes and times of Masses.

ADVENT TAIZE MASS: Every Friday evening at 7pm at Holy Cross. It is an opportunity to prepare for Christmas. Last one this week.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC EVENING

“An Evening of Inspirational and Seasonal Music” will take place on Sunday 4th January at St. Matthew’s – begins 7pm.

Tickets now on sale this at St. Matthew’s and Holy Cross.

Admission is £3 adults and £1 children – includes refreshments.

At Holy Cross please see Fr. Michael.

Would like to take part in the evening? Contact David Glynn-Whitehead on 794 1006.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

This year the first Mass of Christmas at both Holy Cross Church and St. Matthew’s Church will be at 7.30 pm.

There will be refreshments after both these Masses.

On Christmas Day Masses will be 9.00 am (St. Matthew’s) and 11.30 am (Holy Cross).

Many thanks to Fr. Quiligotti who will be helping out on Christmas Eve.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Last week 45 children celebrated their 1st Reconciliation. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation for Confirmation and Holy Communion.

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

CLUSTER ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

THIS THURSDAY 18th December at 7.30pm at St. Mary’s, Eccles.

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

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

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

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 **this Tuesday (16th Dec) at 11.00am.**

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.

LIVING FAITH: Jan–March edition now on sale. **NOW 70p.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Christmas Bingo & Grand Draw** – today (Sunday) - 6pm in Parish Hall.
- **Christmas Musical Evening** – Sun 4th Jan 7pm 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.

ADVENT 2008 & THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

"Do not forget: thin sowing means thin reaping; the more you sow the more you reap." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Today is "Gaudete" Sunday – "Rejoice Sunday". To truly embrace our faith we need to make a total commitment to nurturing it. As St. Paul says – thin sowing means thin reaping – therefore, the opposite is also true. Advent invites us once more make that total commitment to Christ – no half measures – half measures never really get you anywhere and very often fades away completely. The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to us by Christ so that we can indeed make that total commitment to Him. May you celebrate this Sacrament before the festival of Christmas begins.

If we truly embrace our faith then at the core of our being there will be joy – no matter how burdensome life may become. We will indeed be able to "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ". "Gaudete" Sunday reminds of that.

On Wednesday (17th December) we move into the final part of Advent when we the Church begin the build up to Christmas. From tomorrow the Gospel readings start to tell the story leading up to the birth of Christ.

Also from tomorrow the ancient "O Come" Antiphons begin – the cry of the Church for the Lord to come becomes louder and more insistent.

It would be good, whenever possible' to come to Mass in these final days of Advent. Let us use them wisely.

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 Holy Cross. Church open at 3pm for quiet prayer.

THANK YOU: For a kind donation of £1,000.00 to Holy Cross.

CAROL SERVICE: Led by Holy Cross School key stage 2 children. This Tuesday at 7.00pm at Holy Cross Church – all welcome.

AMOUNTS RAISED: Holy Cross School Fayre raised £1458.00 – many thanks to all who supported the event.

£160.00 was raised for the children in Fr. McIntyre's parish in Equador. £165.00 was raised from the Holy Cross Parish stall at both Christmas Fayres and also £57.00 was raised for the parish by the knitting group from the Fayre. Many thanks.