

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

Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Rd, Patricroft,
Eccles, Manchester M30 8QD

Tel & Fax: 0161 789 4424

Website: www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Ryan

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

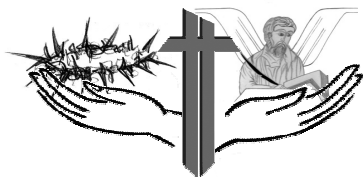
Parish Secretary: Paul Boardman

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



**4th Sunday of Advent
Psalter Week 4 and Proper of Seasons**

**MASS TIMES
22nd – 28th December 2008**

		Holy Cross	St Matthew's
Monday	Advent Weekday Mass	<u>7.30pm</u>	
Tuesday	Advent Weekday Mass		9.15am
Wednesday AM	Advent Weekday Mass	9.15am	

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesday Eve	"NATIVITY OF THE LORD" First Mass of Christmas	7.30pm	7.30pm
Thursday	Christmas Day Mass	11.30am	9.00am
Friday	Feast of St. Stephen	10.30am	
Saturday	Benediction Feast of St. John <i>and devotions</i>		11.50am 12noon
Saturday (Vigil)	1 st Mass of Sunday (Feast of the Holy Family)	6.30pm	
Sunday	Mass	11.30am	9am

Morning Prayer: NONE THIS WEEK

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.

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.**

CHRISTMAS BINGO AND GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW: What a fantastic evening was had last Sunday. Great to see so many people there and to have a good mix from both communities. A list of prize winners can be found on the notice board. The amounts raised will be announced soon.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE: The final total raised was £1252.96 - this is down on the amount given a few weeks ago because the float had not been taken into account. Once again many thanks to all who supported the fayre.

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; Chris McHugh; Anne Rourke; Josie Brennan; Chris Baines; Dorothy Pirie; Philomena Noone; Margaret Ward; John Bosco Whitehead; Cecilia McFarlane and Don McCorryston. Please also remember the housebound, all in hospital, nursing and residential homes; Mgr. Paul Smith; Canon Denis Clinch; Fr. Patrick Keane; Fr. John Reynolds; Fr. Aidan O'Reilly; Fr. Michael Hoare; Fr. Michael Twomey; Fr. Edmund Willoughby SJ and Fr Michael Hartley.



ANNIVERSARIES: Violet and Thomas Kirk, Eileen Murphy, Colette Scott, Doris Leigh, Sarah Wilson, Thomas Wilson, Jerome Cunningham, Eileen Morgan, Mary Morgan, John Hooley.

LATELY DEAD:

Lorraine Redfern whose funeral was at Peel Green Cemetery on Friday.
Henrietta Lundy whose funeral is at Agecroft on Wednesday at 11.40am.
Susan Murphy whose funeral is at Holy Cross on 30th December at 10.00am
and Eileen Murray whose funeral is at St Matthew's on Friday 2nd January at 10.00am. Stanley Ashurst, Thomas Bracegirdle, James Brennan.
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
£338.98	£589.13

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **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.

ABC FAITH GROUP: The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 7th at the Presbytery.

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.

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.

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

HOLY CROSS CRIB: Thank you to those who helped erect the crib at Holy Cross last Tuesday.

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

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CLEANING

A big pre-Christmas clean of Holy Cross Church will take place **this Monday from 9.30am onwards.** Please come along and help.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Fr. Austin; Fr. McIntyre and Fr. Casimir send their Christmas greetings to you all. Cards from Fr. Austin and Fr. Casimir can be found at the back of Holy Cross and a letter from Fr. McIntyre is on the notice board of both churches. I have sent Fr Austin, Fr McIntyre, Fr Casimir and Fr Mullin greetings from us all. Please keep them in your prayers.

SCRIPTURE GROUP: No more meetings till the new year.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ: After the success of last year's Christmas Quiz another even harder has been created. It is something you can do if you get bored over the Christmas holiday. There is a prize for the winner. Quiz is available at the 200 Club table at Holy Cross and from Fr Michael at St Matthews at £1 per copy. Entries need to be returned by noon on 4th January

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Many thanks for the money raised.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Refreshments will be served after both Masses on Christmas Eve.

CONGRATULATIONS: to *Abigail Edwards* who was baptised last weekend. We welcome her into the family of the Church. Also to *Jeanette and Mark Edwards* whose marriage was blessed.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2008
IN THE YEAR OF ST. PAUL

“...I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions and the agonies I go through for Christ’s sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:10.

This week we begin our celebration of Christmas – when God humbled Himself and, in the words of John’s Gospel,

“The word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us” (chapter 1).

And He did this because He loves us all deeply.

Out of love for us God humbled Himself - He became man and then endured insults, hardships, persecution and agonies for us.

God is not some distant deity who is not interested in us but one who wants to be involved in our lives.

He is indeed “Emmanuel” – which means “God-is-with-us”.

Come to Mass during the last days of Advent and make final spiritual preparations for your celebration of the great festival of Christmas and the message it proclaims.

On Wednesday evening the Church will move from the quiet of Advent to the joy and wonder of Christmas.

Come Christmas? I am looking forward to an encounter with the Cybermen on Christmas Day evening!!!

May I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and may the blessings of the Christ child come down upon you and your families.

Fr. Michael

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Last one today (Sunday) at 3.30pm. This week at St. Matthew’s

The Church will be open at 3pm for quiet prayer.

MINISTERS: Please can we make sure we have enough Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers for all Christmas Masses – including Christmas morning.

POSTERS: Please take one home with you and display in a window for all to see. It is a great way of reminding people the real reason we have Christmas.

RED BOXES - HOLY CROSS: The last amount collected was £323. The boxes are due to be emptied. Please bring to Church