



# 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

5th  
Sunday  
of Easter

Daily  
Prayer  
Week 1

## YOU KNOW THE WAY...

Jesus says to his followers in today's Gospel: "You know the way to where I am going." Thomas however, as we have seen before, is too much of a realist and protests in just the same way we would do. He cannot at first grasp the concept of "Way" and instead thinks of a normal journey. What is a way without a clear destination? Give him a postcode to punch into his sat-nav, and then he will be happy. But it just isn't so simple. "Where" is not for now. The journey is everything. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" replies Jesus—to Thomas, and to us all.

In today's world, we spend so much of our time rushing from one place to another. Our life seems like a series of destinations with a brief task to fulfil before we move on to the next. And the journeying becomes more and more tedious—especially with the heavy traffic around Eccles, with roadworks, and a rush hour that lasts practically all day. All this contributes to a feeling that journeys are nothing but a necessary evil as we try to get to where we want, or need, to be. But it does not have to be like this.

Christ presents a very different model of life. No longer is it a series of destinations separated by journeys to get there. Instead, life itself is the journey—a journey not towards a place, but towards the wonder and glory of God himself. Along the way, we learn more and more about the God we seek. Little by little, we learn also about ourselves. We begin to discover who we are, and find our place in God's plan for the world. We begin to discover the "vocation" we reflected upon last week, and to learn that our journey is never alone, never travelled in isolation.

The Disciples were soon to become known as "Followers of the Way"—and this is our calling too. With Christ as our Way, our Truth and our Life, we travel alongside one another, knowing the only rest we will find, or need, is Christ himself. But have we realised it yet? Are we ready to be known as a Follower of the Way? *Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.*

## REPORT FROM MPANDULE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last year's Lent and Easter Challenge raised over £6,000 to support this school in Malawi with school meals for a whole year—a magnificent achievement by you all and by our schools. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view their "Thank You" report and see how appreciated it all was!

## YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE

Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, the diocese is offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22nd May—Sunday 24th May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Baby Jude, Jackie, Julie Ann, Irene, Josie, Wojciech, Mark, Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Jan, Margaret, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, David, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

**Lately Dead:** Carl Letham, Margaret Malone, Doris Julia Au Yeung, Shelagh Connolly, Evelyn Waite, Vera Holt, Robert Merrell, June Harper, Anthony O'Donnell, Sr Lucy Dunne FMSJ, Kathleen Wyrivas, Pauline Weyman, Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister).

**Anniversaries:** John McPhillips, Mary Kelly, Catherine Smallwood, John Michael Lockyer Jill Cheshire, Renee Fernandes-Dougan (Tuesday's Mass), Catherine Hickey, Helen Shannon, Christopher Doyle, Austin Tighe, Olive Pennington.

**Remembrance:** Bernard and Jessie Collins, Mary Ferm and family, James Carson, Marie and John Payne, Josephine Doherty, Patrick Joseph Nash, Anthony Nash (Birthday Anniv), Elizabeth and Christopher Doyle, John and Monica Potter.

**We also pray:** for Monica and Maciej (married recently at St Mary's), for Pope Leo, for the Jewish Community, for the people of Iran, Lebanon and all the Middle East, and the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for other countries suffering unrest, for migrants and refugees, for children suffering from poverty, for the victims of modern slavery, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for Michael Wheeler, Rebecca Long-Bailey and all who serve us in Westminster, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for Fr Stanto and the Syro-Malabar Mission of St Euphrasia based at St Mary's, and for each of our schools. We pray for all world leaders, for God's guidance and support throughout these troubled times, for the housebound and those in hospital, nursing and residential homes, for NHS and Care Home workers, and for a number of special intentions.

## NEW DAWN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

The **New Dawn Catholic Conference 2026** will take place at **All Saints Church** (Redclyffe Road, Manchester M41 7LG), celebrating 40 years under the theme "Embrace the Father's Love" (Luke 15). Two conferences will run: **29-31 May** and **3-7 August**, featuring excellent international speakers and clergy, daily Mass, praise and worship, talks, prayer ministry, children's and youth ministries, and opportunities for confession and personal prayer. Bookings are open for both events, with **day tickets and instalment options** available for the August conference. More information and booking at [www.princeofpeace.org.uk](http://www.princeofpeace.org.uk) and <https://booking.princeofpeace.org.uk/>

## 24 HOURS WITH THE LORD

This is due to take place beginning at 6.00pm on Friday 8th May, and concluding with Benediction and the regular 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Holy Cross on Saturday 9th May. We still need more volunteers to sign up and promise to attend at particular times, to ensure we have two people in church at all times. (Once we have two promised attendees, any number of others can, of course, attend, without any booking needed). If you would like to volunteer for a particular hour, please [CLICK HERE](#) in the online version of the newsletter or contact the parish office. **At the time of going to print, we still need volunteers from 4am onwards on the Saturday.** (A problem with the online system failed to display these times at first, but this has now been corrected). If the time you are available is already booked do, please, come along anyway! All it means is that we already have two people "on duty" in the church at that time.

## NEWS FROM St PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

We wish all members of our parish community a very happy Easter! Please find our news from April below:

- During Holy Week, pupils commemorated the last week of Jesus' life through dramatising the entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper. Year 10 pupils did a fantastic job of bringing these central events to life for the full school community to witness. Pupils also prayed the Stations of the Cross at lunch times in Chapel, and participated in Maundy Thursday liturgies.
- We also concluded our fundraising for Mary's Meals. Two pupils drove this charitable initiative following their pilgrimage to Medjugorje. We raised £446.55, which equates to 23 children being fed for a full year. We are incredibly proud of the work of our pupils in championing this very worthy cause, putting their faith into action.
- Since returning to school following the Easter break, pupils have participated in assemblies on 'Vocation' following Christ the King / Good Shepherd Sunday. They have reflected on the lives of the 5 saints linked to our 5 school values, and considered who inspires them most in their own lives.
- Thank you to Fr Martin for celebrating Mass with Year 9, and to parents/carers and parishioners who joined us. A reminder that parishioners are very welcome to join our First Friday Masses in school—our next Mass is on Friday 10th July with Year 10, starting at 9.00am. Please arrive and sign-in at reception beforehand if you'd like to attend!
- Finally, St Patrick's staff and pupils will be attending Sunday Mass at St Mary's on 17th May, and serving refreshments after Mass. We hope to see you there—please come and say hello!

## Fr BASHOBORA BRING AND BUY SALE...

...for his orphanage in Uganda. It will take place at all Masses on the weekend of the 16th/17th May. Donations of any unwanted gifts and home-made or shop-bought cakes to be sold on the day are very welcome. Your support makes a huge difference to the lives of the Children. Thank you.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

*As we progress through the implementation stages of the Universal and Diocesan Synods, please use the Synod Prayer whenever you can, praying for each other and for the wider Diocesan community:*

Loving Father,  
be with us as we seek new ways  
of being your people in our Diocese.  
May each new day bring us  
closer to your son Jesus,  
as we follow his teaching and  
become disciples of love.  
As we continue our Synodal journey,  
draw us closer to each other.  
May the truth of your Spirit enlighten us.  
Open our hearts, as we listen to each other  
and reach out in love to your people.  
Stay with us, Lord, on our journey. **Amen.**

## USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

**Saturday (Vigil Mass):** 6.00pm at Holy Cross  
**Sunday Morning:** 9.30am at St Mary's  
11.15am at Holy Cross  
*Children's Liturgy at most 11.15am Masses*  
*Refreshments are normally served after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's*  
*and as announced after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross*  
**Sunday Evening:** 6.30pm at St Mary's  
*The 6.30pm Mass is kept quiet to be autism-friendly*  
**Weekdays:** See Calendar below  
**Holydays:** As announced beforehand

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are *usually* available during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays and Saturdays.  
*Please check the calendar below*

## 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 refer to the website for further information*

# Calendar for This Week

**5th Sunday of Easter** Sat 2nd May: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
Sunday 3rd: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross  
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) \* Livestreamed

**The English Martyrs** Monday 4th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*  
Parish Afternoon Tea *as advertised*  
Tuesday 5th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:  
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
2.00pm Monthly Prayer Group in St Mary's Sacristy—*All welcome*

Wednesday 6th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:  
10.00am Eucharistic Service at Holy Cross  
Thursday 7th: 11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Carl Lethem—*May he rest in peace*  
7.00pm Confirmation Service at Holy Cross

**24 Hours with the Lord,**  
6pm—6pm  
**Friday—Saturday at**  
**Holy Cross**

Friday 8th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament \*/Confessions *followed by*  
6.30pm Marian Service *and*  
7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross \*  
Saturday 9th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*Confessions available*)  
followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, **all at Holy Cross this week**  
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
**6th Sunday of Easter** Sunday 10th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas)  
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

Saturday's Vigil Mass will continue to be available on the [Live!](#) page of our website on Sunday and throughout the week, and on our [Facebook Page](#). It can also be viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £944.13. The final "Challenge" total for Mission has now exceeded £5,000—more on this next week!. Thank you also to all those who donate to the parish by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless devices at the back of both Churches. Scan the QR Code, (above), if you would like to donate to the parish today. Thank you, again, for your generosity!



## CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of the Divine Mercy, Chadderton and Hollinwood, and for Fr Lawrence Imoisili, CM. We pray for the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King, for the parish primary schools and for St John Henry Newman College.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Tickets for the parish afternoon tea to be held in Holy Cross community hall on Monday 4th May from 2.00 until 4.00pm will be on sale after all Masses. Tickets cost £5.00.
- The monthly prize draw will take place after the 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday, 3rd May. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- A date for your diary! The parish summer fair will be held on Saturday, 11th July in St Mary's community hall. More details to follow.

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Ecclesiastical Education Fund (deferred from last week)  
Next week: SVP monthly collection.

## PIETY SHOPS

Our Piety Shops are fully stocked with First Holy Communion cards and gifts. Please support our shops!

## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. Please help us to keep them safe at all times. Thank you!

## A HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUEST

The "default" position for kneelers in both churches is DOWN. If you need to raise them to move into or out of the bench, please ensure they are then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall. If you need help to adjust a kneeler, please speak to one of the stewards who will be happy to assist you.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS (Please note that email addresses below can NOT be copied as links)

**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:* rosemarie.twemlow@dioceseofsalford.org.uk  
*Newsletter:* newsletter@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)  
*Facebook:* @ourparishcommunity  
*YouTube:* [www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIEcclcs/](http://www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIEcclcs/)

**Parish Halls Hire:** Enquiries to Steve Jackson, Hall Manager  
*Telephone:* 07580 571839—*please leave a voicemail*  
*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:** Marie Twemlow/Anna Raynor/Ged Dale  
*Email:* safeguarding@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Schools:**  
Holy Cross and All Saints: 0161 789 4386  
St Gilbert's: 0161 567 9012 (*note, new number*)  
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