



# 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

6th  
Sunday  
of Easter

Daily  
Prayer  
Week 2

## "I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS..."

Times are changing for the Apostles. They have experienced the public life of Jesus, received his teaching, suffered the desolation of his Passion and death and felt the joy of the Resurrection. There is little more for them to learn from Jesus's earthly ministry and soon they will not see Him face to face any more. Soon will come his Ascension back into heaven... and then? How will they go on with the great work entrusted to them and to their followers in the years and centuries to come? The Jewish "cult" of Jesus must give way to the birth of the Church, but where will the strength of character be found to manage without their Lord?

On Thursday this week we will all call to mind that vision of Jesus being taken from view, and leaving the disciples with the words "Know that I am with you always..." In today's Gospel, he is preparing the way. They may well have "grown up" a long way in the experience of the last few weeks, but in establishing the Church the disciples are still like children, finding their feet. Jesus assures them: "I will not leave you orphans." They may see Him go but, in the Spirit, he will still be there as their guide—and as ours too.

With Jesus, they have discovered a world of dreams; a world where everyone is valued—no more division between Jew and Samaritan, no more slave or free, no more black or white, rich or poor—a world in which everyone is equal in the image and likeness of God. But how do dreams become reality? How can the teaching and example of Jesus become a lived experience? Quite simply, it cannot without Him. So His Spirit is promised to make things both clear and achievable. With the coming of Pentecost, the disciples will step out boldly, challenging everything that is contrary to the Christian ideal.

However, the obstacles will not go away. The world will not let them, because the world "neither sees nor knows" the Spirit. The fight for what is true and good will go on—as we see it still does today. But for those who trust, the ideal remains worth working for. Truth. Equality. Love. Respect. With Christ at our side for all time, the sufferings along the way hardly seem to matter. Are our hearts open to the grace of his Spirit?

## ASCENSION DAY on THURSDAY

On Thursday of this week we celebrate the return of the Risen Lord Jesus to heaven at the end of his earthly ministry. We hear his promise, to be with us to the end of time, and we rejoice that he remains with us today in hearts willing to accept and to embrace the divine love which he was born on earth to bring. Thursday is for us, as Catholics, a **Holiday of Obligation** when we are expected to attend Mass. Indeed, the first Commandment of the Church tells us: "You shall hear Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation." But, let us not act simply out of a sense of obligation—may God's love inspire in each of us a real desire to celebrate the Eucharist together on this great Feastday.

## 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:** Fr Peter McGiveron, Carl Letham, Doris Julia Au Yeung, Shelagh Connolly, Evelyn Waite, Vera Holt, Robert Merrell, June Harper, Anthony O'Donnell, Sr Lucy Dunne FMSJ, Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister).

**Anniversaries:** Mina D'Cunha, Mary Kelly, John Bunting, Margaret Malone (2 months' Mind Mass on Tuesday), Sheila and George Devlin (66th wedding Anniv—Thursday's 10.00am Mass), 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.

**Remembrance:** Bernard and Jessie Collins, Mary Fern 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 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 our local Councillors, 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.

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please keep in your prayers all of our teenagers who received the great Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop John in a service at Holy Cross last week. The Bishop often reminds our young people to "use the Sacrament well." How well do we "use" the Sacraments—the gifts we have received from Christ through his Church? How well do we allow them to form our every action, with Christ showing us the best way? As we pray for our young people, let us pray for a spirit of renewal ourselves—and what better time than the approaching Feast of Pentecost?

## 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).

## 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/>

## INTERNATIONAL MASS

Advance notice—we will be celebrating the great diversity of the parish with another International Mass on **Pentecost Sunday**, (24th May). This year it will be the 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross and, as usual, there will be foods from around the world available afterwards. We will be holding a music rehearsal for this on Wednesday this week, 7.00pm at Holy Cross, and all are welcome to come along.

## LORETO 6TH FORM COLLEGE VACANCY

Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a full-time teacher of Core Religious Education and Chaplaincy Support. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. Therefore, there are no formal assessments and no significant marking commitments. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. For more information, please go to the Loreto Website vacancies page. <https://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>

## Fr BASHOBORA BRING AND BUY SALE...

...for his orphanage in Uganda. It will take place at all Masses **next weekend** (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.**

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection

Next week: No retiring collection next week.

## 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!

## 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

Sat 9th May:	6.00pm Benediction (concluding "24 Hours with the Lord" and Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	<b>* Livestreamed</b>
<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> Sunday 10th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Jan) 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)	
Monday 11th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>	
Tuesday 12th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
Wednesday 13th:	2.00pm Pro-Life Rosary Group at St Gilbert's Presbytery— <i>All welcome</i> 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
<b>Thursday is Ascension Day— a Holyday of Obligation</b> Thursday 14th:	7.00pm Music Rehearsal for International Mass on Pentecost Sunday— <i>All welcome</i> <b>10.00am Mass at St Mary's Church (with St Mary's School)</b> <b>1.30pm Mass at Holy Cross Church (with schools present)</b> <b>7.00pm Evening Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Jan)</b>	
Friday 15th:	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 16th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ( <i>Confessions available</i> ) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> Sunday 17th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)— <i>St Patrick's School involved</i> 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 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 £1073.50. The retiring collection raised £211.86 for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund. 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!



## PIETY SHOPS

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

## 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 help.**

## CYCLE of PRAYER

This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of St Edward, Lees, for Fr Callum Brown, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- This month's winners of the Monthly Prize Draw are:

£ 100	242	Dominic A
£ 30	244	Kate F
£ 20	145	Veronica E
- Thank you to everyone who supported the parish Afternoon Tea and to those who provided the food. A special thanks to Morrisons, Eccles who gave us the sausage rolls free of charge. It was an enjoyable afternoon with a raffle and bingo. The event raised an amazing £760.76 for parish funds.
- The summer fair will be held on Saturday 11th July in the community hall at St Mary's. More details to follow.

## 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](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)  
**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIIEccles/](https://www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIIEccles/)

**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*