



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

7th
Sunday
of Easter

Daily
Prayer
Week 3

WAITING FOR THE SPIRIT

The rollercoaster ride of the disciples has taken yet another turn. From the expectations of their first meeting with Jesus—when everything started to make sense for them, and they were convinced they had found the great king who would free them from the Roman occupation—to the talk of suffering and death. From the growing desire for power and authority with Jesus to the realisation that the power to serve is all that matters. From the familiar gathering of friends at the Last Supper to talk of betrayal. From running away as their Lord was led to be crucified to the exhilaration of seeing him raised from the dead. From the comfort of having the risen Jesus with them once more to guide them and answer their questions, to gazing heavenwards as he leaves them with the promise of sending the Spirit. So, again they find themselves hiding in the Upper Room, waiting for the promise to be fulfilled and for it all to make sense again in a new sort of way. They wait, yearning for a new beginning, for a new strength and a new hope.

The wait is so important. In waiting they find time to join together in prayer—they grow, through the shared experience of Jesus's life. Their wait makes the final gift even more special, for in waiting their expectation is enriched, their hearts open wide to accept the fullness of the Spirit and to be transformed by Him.

Waiting in so many of its guises is a vital part of our Christian experience: there is no true Christmas without Advent; no Easter Glory without Lent—and no real experience of the Spirit without time to realise our need for his presence. So, let us wait now, in the real hope that everything will be made clear for us, and that through all the trials and tribulations of our modern-day world, God will indeed turn all things to good.

INTERNATIONAL MASS

Next Sunday will be celebrating the great diversity of the parish with another International Mass for **Pentecost** (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. Please come along in your national costume if you are able—or alternatively you could wear something in red for the Pentecost feastday!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Baby Jude, Jackie, Julie Ann, 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: Joan Gidman, Joseph Parr, Fr Peter McGiveron, Carl Letham, Doris Julia Au Yeung, Shelagh Connolly, Evelyn Waite, Vera Holt, Robert Merrell, Margaret Malone.

Anniversaries: Anthony Evans, Mina D'Cunha (Tuesday's Mass), Mary Kelly, John Bunting, Sheila and George Devlin (66th wedding Anniv), John McPhillips, Mary Kelly, Catherine Smallwood, John Michael Lockyer, Jill Cheshire, Renee Fernandes-Dougan (Tuesday's Mass), Catherine Hickey.

Remembrance: Bernard and Jessie Collins, Mary Ferm and family, James Carson, Marie and John Payne, Josephine Doherty.

We also pray: for Fr Livesey on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination, 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.

Fr LIVESEY—DIAMOND JUBILEE

We congratulate Fr Livesey (Parish priest of the former St Mary's parish from 2000-2018) as he prepares to celebrate 60 years of Ordination. His celebration Mass will be on Monday 8th June, 7.00pm at St Joseph's, Accrington. If you would like to attend this Mass, please contact the parish office here at Holy Cross **by Sunday 31st May** so that we can pass on numbers, which parishioners of St Joseph's will need for catering purposes at the celebration afterwards.

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 and <https://booking.princeofpeace.org.uk/>

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for the MONTH of MAY

"That everyone might have food." Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure everyone has access to quality food.

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. This takes place after all Masses today, and there will also be a retiring collection if you would like simply to donate to this cause. Your support makes a huge difference to the lives of the Children. Thank you.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Fr Bashobora (with Bring and Buy sale)
Next week: No retiring collection next week.

PIETY SHOPS

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

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.**

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

7th Sunday of Easter

Sat 16th May: Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 Sunday 17th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)—St Patrick's School involved
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

* Livestreamed

Monday 18th: No Mass in the parish on Mondays
 Tuesday 19th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

Wednesday 20th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

Thursday 21st: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *

Friday 22nd: 7.00pm First Holy Communion meeting for parents and children at St Mary's
 10.00am "Pentecost Day" Mass at Holy Cross & All Saints' School—All welcome
 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 23rd: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available)
 followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) *

Pentecost Sunday Sunday 24th:

9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am International 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 £1,354.47. The retiring collection raised £168.41 for the work of the parish SVP Group. 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!



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.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishes of St Joseph, Mossley, and Sacred Heart and St William, Uppermill, for Fr James Clarke, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MEETINGS

Please see calendar (above) for details.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The new year for the monthly prize draw starts at the end of the month. Can you please let Fran have your subscriptions—£26 for the year? If you would like to join this fundraiser please complete an application form at the back of church.
- Parish summer fair on Saturday 11th July. 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
Facebook: [@ourparishcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)
YouTube: www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaullIIIccles/

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

SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey