



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

21st
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 1

ON THIS ROCK...

Jesus's choice of Simon-bar-Jonah to be first amongst his disciples is clear from the outset. Simon is amongst the first to be called as an apostle, and Jesus's Galilean ministry seems to have centred upon Simon's house. Simon was first to be given authority to "bind and loose" (an authority later extended to all the disciples, Mt.18.18). His name is always listed first in the Gospels, and clearly the other disciples looked to him for leadership.

Yet the same Simon who, in today's Gospel, speaks up boldly in recognition of who Jesus really is, would in just a few weeks' time stand by a fire outside Pilate's court and deny he has ever known Jesus at all.

He is capable of wondrous deeds and great blunders alike, and Jesus's faith in Simon, now given the nickname Cephas, "the Rock" ("Petros" in Greek), is often greater than Simon's own faith in himself. But for Jesus, he is to be the focus of unity amongst all his followers. Even when his human failings show up in the future, and he finds himself challenged by Paul over a prejudiced attitude to the Gentile converts, ultimately the resolution that is needed must be centred upon Peter himself.

Despite their differences, Peter defends Paul against those who try to distort his words, and speaks of "our brother Paul who is so dear to us" (2 Pet. 3:15). And Peter is the one who will hold together different factions, supporting the unity for which Christ prayed, in the love of God.

In today's Church, we too look for our focus of unity to the successor of Simon Peter, our own Pope, Leo XIV. And many other Christian denominations hope and pray for unity around the spiritual leadership of this Petrine figure.

Differences should never lead us to disunity. Let us give thanks today for those inspirational voices which will help our world achieve unity, with Christ as our head.

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for the month of AUGUST

"For evangelization in the city." Let us pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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.**

NAMES ON OUR SICK LIST

There are some people on our prayer list about whom we have not heard any updates for a while. If they still need our prayers we will, of course, keep their names on the list, but if we do not hear over the next couple of weeks, names will be removed. They can, of course, be added again if necessary.

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.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Teresa, Kathleen, John, Monica, Robert, Doreen, Adam, Eamonn, Jackie, Julie Ann, Josie, Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Margaret, Pat, Danny, Pauline, Michael, Natalie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Latently Dead: John Collins, James Mulgrew ("Jimmy Cricket"), Ryan Fellows (Sunday's 11.15am Mass), Canon Mortimer Stanley, Brenda Evans, Nora McPartland, Fr Michael O'Leary, Fr Peter McGiveron.

Anniversaries: Sheila Hazeldine (Sunday's 11.15am Mass), Pauline Yates, Florence Yates, Veronica Grimshaw (Birthday Anniv), Gerard Nicholls (Birthday Anniv), Annie Whittaker, Julie Burgess (65th Birthday Anniv), Aliason Dapato, Jessie Wilde, Fr Michael Ryan, Shirley Parkes (Birthday Anniv), Harold Yates, Michael Gilbert.

Remembrance: Charles, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, William and Lilian Hindley.

We also pray: for Sr Anne FMSJ (Diamond Jubilee), for Pope Leo, for those affected by the recent Earthquakes, for the Jewish Community, for the people of Iran, Lebanon and all the Middle East, the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for other countries suffering unrest, for the Christians of Nigeria, 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.

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 parish website for further information

Calendar for This Week

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Sat 22nd Aug: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) *
 Sunday 23rd: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
St Bartholomew Monday 24th: No Mass in the parish on Mondays
 Tuesday 25th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
Bl Dominic of the Mother of God Wed 26th: No Prayer Group at St Gilbert's this week
 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
St Monica Thursday 27th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross with Adult Reception *
St Augustine Friday 28th: 2.00pm Wedding Mass at Holy Cross for Darren and Monica
 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by
 6.40pm Chaplet of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (August) and
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
Beheading of St John the Baptist Sat 29th: 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 *
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 30th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (No refreshments after Mass on this occasion)
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

* Livestreamed

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 £823.31.
 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, (right), if you would like to donate to the parish today. The contactless device at St Mary's is now working again. If you attempted a payment on it which failed some time ago, please check your bank account for any unexpected payment to St John Paul II, Eccles in the afternoon of Friday 7th August when the device came back online. If you wish to dispute a payment, Dona (the service provider) can provide a refund or you can contact the parish office. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience.



CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of St Joseph, Ramsbottom, and for Canon Peter Hopkinson, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collection this week or next

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!

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
YouTube: 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