



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

22nd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 2

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

"Why should I lose my job, when I have always been so conscientious and hard-working?" "Why should I face the embarrassment of turning to foodbanks for help, when I've always tried so hard to be generous with everything I had?" "Why should my health fail me when my family depends on my support?" "Why was I attacked in the street, when I'd done nothing to harm those who turned on me?" "Why should I have to face losing my independence in old age, when I did so much for others when I was young?" "What have I done to deserve to see my sick child die before me?" "Why do so many worse people than me seem to have everything go their own way." "I've always prayed, I've always gone to Church, I've tried to be a good Christian, haven't I? What good's it all been? Really?"

There could be a thousand and one more scenarios we have heard of, or even faced ourselves, where we might have thought God should treat us better—or at least make it clear that our praying, our Mass-going, our service to others, our alms-giving has been worthwhile. A thousand and one reasons to become bitter, and take it all out on everyone else.

If only we could truly take to heart the words of today's Gospel! "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Then we might know, as we ask: "Where was God in all these troubles," that the answer is simple. In the person of Christ, he was just a few steps in front, carrying a cross to a death he had never deserved.

We cannot expect to be judged on the way we celebrate our successes, or gain our wealth. Our status in life means nothing if we move smoothly from one comfort to another and show only the kindness and generosity we have to spare. We cannot expect our Christianity to make life easy for us, or expect to be treated better than anyone else. If this were all it meant, we would surely deserve to hear those words of Jesus quoted to us each Lent: "You have had your reward."

We will be judged on the way in which we carry, and take ownership, of our portion of the Cross of Christ.

So, are we ready then, without reservation, to accept and embrace the glorious Cross of our salvation? Are we ready to persevere in doing good without reward or recognition, with no other reason than that it is the right thing to do? Are we ready, when things go wrong, instead of asking: "Why me?" to thank God for giving us a share in Christ's sufferings?

Let us pray for the Grace to be true Christians. Then together, we can celebrate the love of God, confident that it will always have the last word, and that one day it will turn all things to good.

NOTE FROM OUR SVP

The SVP are always willing to visit or phone anyone who feels they need to talk. Anyone requiring this or who knows someone they could help, please call the parish office and we will arrange an initial discussion.

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Darren and Monica, married at Holy Cross on Friday.

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 differently, names now will be removed.

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.

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.**

FLOWERS at St MARY'S

We are so grateful for all the hard work put into the flowers at St Mary's by Sue, alternating with the Syro-Malabar florists who also do such a wonderful job. She has asked us, now, to look for someone else (or perhaps more than one person) willing to take on the role—she will be happy to explain just what this will entail. Please speak to Sue directly or contact Marie in the parish office. Thank you.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week

Next week: SVP monthly collection

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Tayo, 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, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

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

Anniversaries: Mary Smith, Martin Platt, Sheila Hazeldine, 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 Darren and Monica (just married), Sr Anne FMSJ (Diamond Jubilee), for Pope Leo, for those affected by the recent Earthquakes and floods, 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 Ephrasia 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Sat 29th Aug: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 Sunday 30th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (No refreshments after Mass on this occasion)
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Henry)
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) * Livestreamed
 Monday 31st: No Mass in the parish on Mondays
 Tues 1st Sept: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Eucharistic Service at Holy Cross
 Wed 2nd: **7.30am Early Mass at St Mary's**
St Gregory the Great Thursday 3rd: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross and All Saints' School—All welcome
 Friday 4th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
 Sat 5th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available)
 followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 6th: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross *
 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

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 £798.00. 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.



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!

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of St Margaret Clitherow, Rochdale, and for Father Simon Firth, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and St Cuthbert's High School.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Next monthly prize draw after 11.15 Mass on 6th September. Subscriptions must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.

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
Facebook: @ourparishcommunity
YouTube: www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaulIIeccles/
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