



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

30th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 2

Love the Lord your God

In today's Gospel, (Mt 22.34-40), we hear Jesus reduce the Commandments to just two—Love God above all, and love your neighbour as yourself. It is not as though he has said that the other Commandments do not matter—far from it. But if we truly keep these two before our minds, we would find it quite impossible not to keep all the others at the same time.

And perhaps there is a way we can even see this entire Commandment in just one command, if we recall the passage where Jesus speaks of the last judgment, where the "elect," who are saved, ask "when did we see you hungry and feed you, a stranger and welcome you, sick and come to visit you?" and God replies, "when you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" (cf Mt 25:37-40). We demonstrate our love for God first and foremost in the ways we treat one another.

This is not to reduce Christianity to a mere "being nice to people." Loving God in our neighbour can present us with quite a challenge. Some people just do not appear so loveable, and it is difficult to see through the hardened face that seems to wish us only ill, and find behind it the child of God, broken and in pain for reasons we can never fully hope to know.

We need Our Lord's help before we can begin to love in the way he loves, without prejudice or judgement in our attitude.

But then, we find our measure of how fully Christian we have become. Do we really love God in our neighbour, whoever our neighbour may be? whatever colour their skin, whatever creed they profess? whatever they may have done, however they may have treated us (not condoning their sin but always loving the sinner?) For when we do, we can truly hope to find peace in our own hearts, and our prayer for peace in the world can begin to take shape around us.

It is a tall order, make no mistake. From each one of us, it demands a change of heart. Yet we should not reproach ourselves too harshly when so often we try, but fail. Always listen to Jesus calling us back and encouraging us to keep trying again. "Take up my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11:29)

REMEMBRANCE

Official poppies are on sale at each of the churches.

PARISH MEMORIAL MASS

Each year in November we hold a special Mass in the parish, especially for those who have lost loved ones in the past 12 months, but indeed for all the bereaved. Candles (upon which the name of your relative or friend can be printed) will soon be on sale, just to cover costs—more will be said about this next week.

A MESSAGE FROM NINA SCOTT

Nina would like to thank all parishioners, friends and family for all the cards, flowers and words of sympathy following the recent death of her husband. Thank you all for your kindness at this difficult time.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Calling families with children in Year 8 (or above) seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. The introductory letter and application form is available through our local Catholic High Schools, on the Confirmation page of the parish website or as printed copies available at church. Applications need to be in soon—please act now!! Thank you.

PIETY SHOPS NOW STOCKED FOR CHRISTMAS

Please check out our piety shops, which are now stocked with Christmas cards and other Christmas goods.

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for this month

"For mental health ministry." Pope Leo XIV dedicates his October prayer intention to mental health ministry, calling on the Church to listen without judging and accompany those who suffer without excluding them.

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.**

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The Christmas Fair will be held on 12th December in St Mary's hall. Raffle tickets will go on sale from 31st October. If you have any items to donate to the fair please leave them at the back of church.
- The next monthly prize draw will take place after the 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross on 1st November. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Advance notice—this will take place at Barton Airport on 16th December. Bookings, please, with Fran Phipps before the end of November.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Pope Leo, Hugh, Veronica, Marlou, Philip, Sarah, Janet, Dave, Michael, Margaret, Colleen, Tayo, Kathleen, John, Monica, Robert, Doreen, Adam, Jackie, Julie Ann, Pauline, Natallie, Edna, Sheila, Juliana.

Lately Dead: Marie Conlan, Vincent Kelly, Mary O'Regan, Teresa Lai Kuen Chan, Bridget Stafford, Tony Scott.

Anniversaries: Henry Costello, Fr Kevin Griffin, Mary McGrory, Gerard McNamara, Elizabeth Royle, Patricia Timmins (née Mallinson), Tony Scott (Birthday Anniv), Ellen Ward, Michael and Francis Lavin.

Remembrance: Loduvico, Nilo, Ludy, Porferio, Mamerta, Rolando, Robin, Merla, and Ronie Sudoy, Crecenciano, Pacencia, Victoriano, Desederio, Rogelio, Rodolfo, Rodolfo, Crispin, Helie, Rodolfo Jr and Rommel Jalea.

We also pray: for Pope Leo and his continued recovery, 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, in thanksgiving for Mario (Jnr) and his wife, for Nikol and family 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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sat 24th Oct: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Dermot) *
 Sunday 25th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
No Mass in the parish on Mondays
 Monday 26th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
Ss Simon and Jude (Apostles) Wed 28th: 1.30pm Funeral Mass at St Mary's for Mary Lavinia O'Regan—*May she rest in peace*
 Thursday 29th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 Friday 30th: 1.00pm Wedding Mass at St Mary's for Helen and Andrew
 6.00pm Quiet Prayer * (with Confessions available) followed by
 6.30pm Rosary for the month of October * and
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
 Sat 31st: 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) *
All Saints Sunday 1st Nov: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's with Welcome for children not in our primary schools
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross with Welcome for children not in our primary schools
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Dermot)

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](#).

* Livestreamed

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,066.66. 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.



WELCOME for CHILDREN NOT IN OUR SCHOOLS

Welcome Masses (and presentation of First Holy Communion certificates) for children not in our parish primary schools at 9.30am and 11.15am Masses **next Sunday** (1st November).

CATECHIST-LED FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

All families on the First Holy Communion of Junior Reception programmes should have received an email on Friday at around 3.30pm announcing these meetings. Please check your Spam folder if you haven't found it yet, and please whitelist the sender!

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

There will be no retiring collections this week or next.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishes of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Haigh, and the Holy Family, New Springs, for Fr Kevin Foulkes, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

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
Facebook: @ourparishcommunity
YouTube: 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
 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