



# 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

5th  
Sunday of  
Easter

Daily  
Prayer  
Week 1

## A NEW COMMANDMENT

A new heaven. A new earth. A new Jerusalem. In the book of the Apocalypse, the vision of St John gives us a glimpse of heaven, whilst Jesus, in the Gospel, shows us the way to get there—a new Commandment to love, as he has loved us first.

But does 'new' mean strange and different? Do those who mock our hope, and imagine heaven to be boring compared to the freedom of worldly excess, have a point? Put another way, do we want all things 'new' or would we really prefer them to stay as they are? Maybe looking back to the Scriptures, we can find pointers to what this 'newness' really means. St John describes an image of God in the midst of his people—his love shared freely as he wipes away every tear, heals every ill, removes every power of evil and elevates humanity to that oneness with himself that finally makes perfect sense of the ancient Creation story, that were made in God's own image and likeness. And if we look back, now, to those creation stories in the book of Genesis, we see a garden where God did just these things in the beginning—walking freely and reaching out to his creatures, Adam and Eve whenever they called upon Him.

The 'new Creation' is then, in a sense, a return to our beginnings—a seeing, as though for the first time, with new eyes. As we aspire to that intimate relationship, in the world to come, with the God who made us, even now we can come to recognise with those new eyes the presence of God in all that is good around us, his shield protecting us so that nothing is too much to bear. But the image must be seen in the light of the call to love as he has loved us first. The more we abandon our selfishness and greed, the more we willingly take up our crosses each day and follow in Christ's footsteps, the more we give of ourselves to bring God's love to others—these are, first and foremost, the ways in which the light of the new Jerusalem will begin, even in this life, to dawn in our minds. For the light of Christ's resurrection always shines most brightly when we look for it dispelling the shadow and darkness of the Cross.

So let us take up our crosses in life with hope and confidence. The newness we seek is not strange and different—it is nothing less than the perfection of our humanity, a return to our created form, made real in Christ.

## RELAUNCH of our SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Much has changed since we last had a Sunday evening Mass in this parish, at St Mary's Church. The Syro-Malabar Mission of St Euphrasia has been established, welcoming so many of our Indian families, with St Mary's church and presbytery as their home; Fr John has come to join us as their priest; pandemic lockdowns have closed our churches for a time and changed everything we thought to be normal; and renovation works (which are finally nearing completion) have closed St Mary's for a significant period of time. *Is there still a demand for a Sunday evening Mass?* We are not certain, but there is perhaps only one way to find out. **And so**, supported by Fr John and also (for one Mass each month) by Fr Nicholas Kumi of the Spiritans, we now propose to relaunch the Sunday evening Mass at St Mary's on **Pentecost Sunday, 5th June, at 6.30pm**. (The new time is to fit in with the Syro-Malabar Mass in the church on Sunday afternoons). Please spread the word, particularly amongst any hospital workers who might once again find this helpful before or after their shifts.

## THE CATHOLIC POST

After a popular but shaky start (deliveries ceased after the first month!) we now have May's edition of this new, environmentally friendly Catholic newspaper. Please take a copy free of charge with our compliments—if any of you would like to donate the suggested £1 to the parish it will be gratefully received but there is no expectation of this.

## CALLING ALL Y9s UPWARDS!

After the success of the last event for our young people (with pancakes)—the food this time will be Chinese! Come along at **6.30pm on Monday 23rd May** and enjoy! (Holy Cross Hall).

## UKRAINE

Please continue to keep the beleaguered people of Ukraine in your prayers, and everyone caught up in the conflict there. By God's Grace, let us pray for peace.

## UPDATE on works at St MARY'S

Most of the works are now complete with the font repaired and the new Sanctuary carpet fitted. The statue of St Joseph will be moved this week to a new position at the side of the church, bringing it back "into" the church, as it always was before the foyer was built. This will also give us space for noticeboards in the foyer and ensure that we do not need to be sellotaping notices to the windows in future! Once works are fully completed we will look to reintroduce some weekday Masses at St Mary's. More updates will follow next week.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** John, Malcolm, Alistair, Maureen, Laurisa, Beishasha, Siobhan, Vinny, Ira, Charlotte, Vanessa, Benjamin, Sr Lucy, Wieslaw, Kevin, Susan, Mat and Amelia, David, Jimmy, Bridget, Greta, Mark, Tom Wood, Angela, Bridie, Maureen, Peggy, Bridget, Peter, Rifa, Barbara, Edna, Ann-Marie, Liz, Stephen, Elizabeth, Irene, Shane, Sidney, Margaret, Carole, Marjorie, Anne, Agnes, Alan, Margaret, Doreen, Peter, Ann, Paul, Allan, Gwyneth, Karen, Kenneth, Kathleen, Pat, Helen, Bridget, Sara, Mary, Carole, Phil, Sarah, Alan and Mary, Molly, Anne, Patrick, David, Peter, Kevin, Helen, Lynn, Pam and Derek, Pauline, Shannon, John, Chris, Clifford, Mrs Wood, Marian, Bridget, Iris, Pauline, Sharon, Fr Mullin, Paul, Maureen, Pat, David, Terry, Betty, Kathleen, Stanley, Catherine, James, Alan, Evelyn, Elizabeth, Anne, Mary, Joan, Amanda, Pat, Billy, David, Evie, Mary, Chamari, Sheila, Monica, Clare, John, Eileen, Kathleen, Joyce, Margaret, Christine, Jean, Margaret, Deborah, Patrick, Fr Connelly, Jean, Maureen, Eleanor, Margaret, Robert, Ken, Catorina, Michaela, Tony, Elaine, Ellen, Glenes, Caroline, Lynne, Joe, Jackie, Gemma, Martin, Joanne, John, Janice, Bill, John, Vera, Lilly, Gerald, Louise, Matthew, Evelyn, Margaret, Anthony, Debbie, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Maureen, Johnny, Robin and Steven, Nicola, Don, Nijole, Roger Bryan, Ken, Stephen, Mildred.

**Lately Dead:** Martin Gillan, Mary Tomlinson, Irene McCracken, Patrick Nash, Jarleth (Charlie) McHugh, Gerard Francis.

**Anniversaries:** Nelly Tighe, Lillian Peters, May Mellins, George and the late Sheila (62nd Wedding Anniversary), Patricia Mulligan, Marie Mackie (Sunday's 11.15am Mass), Helen Shannon, Bernard Collins, Mary Kelly, Shannon Mackey, Renée Fernandes, John and Margaret Stafford.

**Remembrance:** Elizabeth and Christopher Royle, Sonny Shannon, Charles, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, Maurice Fagan, Mary Fagan, Rose Follen, Gerard Fagan.

**We also pray:** for Robert (one of our stewards)—birthday blessings, for Ujitha and Gina, Marie Conlan and her daughter (birthday blessings), for Lyndsay, for Carolyn, for migrants, for the people of Ukraine and all those affected by the war there, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for the Syro-Malabar community, for each of our schools, and for our Sacramental Programme families. 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 Liturgies are currently suspended  
Refreshments after Masses will resume shortly*

**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

\* **Livestreamed**

Saturday 14th May: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
(5th Sunday of Easter) Sunday 15th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross  
Monday 16th: *There is no Mass in the parish on Mondays*  
6.00pm Music rehearsal at St Mary's - all welcome  
Tuesday 17th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
Wednesday 18th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
Thursday 19th: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
Friday 20th: 7.00pm Mass at Holy Cross following a Holy Hour from 11.00am \* (with Confessions)  
Saturday 21st: 12 noon Mass at Holy Cross following a Holy Hour from 11.00am \* (with Confessions)  
6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
(6th Sunday of Easter) Sunday 22nd: **FORMAL OPENING of St MARY'S 9.30am Mass with Bishop John**  
(refreshments afterwards in St Mary's Hall)  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross with Fr Nicholas Kumi

Saturday's Vigil Mass will continue to be available on the [Sunday Mass](#) page of our website on Sunday and throughout the week, and on our [Facebook Page](#). It can also viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

## FORMAL OPENING of St MARY'S

Whilst we have now been open for Sunday Mass for a few weeks, we have kept things informal whilst work continues to go on around us. **Next Sunday, (22nd May), we will be holding a formal re-opening ceremony at the 9.30am Mass with Bishop John joining us. St Mary's Primary School will also be involved in the Mass, and a celebration will follow afterwards in the hall. Members of the parish choir (and members of the school choir) will lead the music, with a rehearsal on Monday evening at 6.00pm. All welcome!**

## JUBILEE PICNIC

On Pentecost Sunday, 5th June, we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a parish picnic, using the lawns along the side of Holy Cross Church. If it is raining we will hold the event in the hall. Please bring your own picnic and drink (tea and coffee will be available) also blankets and chairs. If you have any spare chairs please bring them in case they are needed. There will be a Jubilee Quiz and music as well. And—please don't read "at Holy Cross" and think it's just for one end of the parish. **It's for everyone**, using the best available space we have at this time, in the grounds of our Parish Church. Please, come, join us and enjoy!

## FIRST COMMUNION FAMILIES

Dates will be announced next weekend for meetings in preparation for First Communion. Please watch this space!

## CYCLE of PRAYER



**We pray this week, throughout the diocese**

for the people of the parish of the Holy Family, Denton, and for Fr Christopher Dawson. May people know them to be disciples of the Risen Lord in the love they have for one another.

## COLLECTIONS

Last week's collection in church totalled £649.42. Thank you also to all those who donate by Standing Order, Direct Debit, [online](#) and via the contactless device at the back of church. We will run the retiring collection for the Priests' training fund again this week as it had not been announced in advance of last week's appeal, and we will publish the total in next week's newsletter.

## MONTHLY DRAW

The new monthly draw in support of parish funds will commence on June 1st. We now have applications from over 100 people, but more prospective members are still sought. If you are interested and have not yet submitted your form, please place it in the box in the church foyer. (More forms are still available at the back of church). Thank you!

## BAPTISMS

Please pray for Arianna, Naomi, Ben and Kevin who were Baptised in the parish last week.

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS *(Please note that email addresses below can NOT be clicked 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:** secretary@ourparishcommunity.co.uk  
**Office Email:** office@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [@ourparishcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)

**Parish Sister:** Sr Jenny (Franciscan Missionary of St Joseph)  
**Telephone:** 0161 789 4424 (Wednesday 10am-4pm)  
0161 707 9537 all other times  
**Email:** srjenny@ourparishcommunity.co.uk

**Parish Halls Hire:** Enquiries to Steve Jackson  
**Telephone:** 07580 571839  
**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 789 5035  
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*