



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

Divine
Mercy
Sunday

Morning
Prayer
Week 2

THE GIFT OF FAITH

Thomas, like all of the disciples, is filled with grief at the crucifixion of his Lord and Master. How can life ever be the same again? He is a changed man from having met and travelled with Jesus, but now Jesus is gone. Somehow, he must come to terms and move on. They all must.

Today he comes back to the room where his friends have locked themselves away. But the mood is changed—sadness has given way to a strange story that Jesus is not dead after all. He has appeared to them! Thomas wonders what they have been doing in his absence. Why invent a story like this? Are they just trying to avoid the truth? Are they creating an escape for themselves from their self-inflicted captivity, a story to bring them back out into the world? (Many non-believers in today's world might think the same). A great story it may be, but Thomas cannot let himself be dragged along. Honesty forces him to hold back—it is just too unbelievable. Unless the evidence is presented irrefutably, his loyalty to the group of friends simply will not stretch that far.

It should hardly surprise us—after all, the other disciples had come to believe only when they saw with their eyes, so why should Thomas be any different? But now Jesus comes again, and this time Thomas is with them. Now he knows that the Resurrection is true—it is not an elaborate story, but simple fact. Now he can share in his friends' joy.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Julie, Johnny, Angela, King Charles, the Princess of Wales, John, Veronica, James, Sheila, Stephen, Ann, Christopher, David, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Latently Dead: Jacqueline Gordon, Joan Hessian, Mary Gallagher, George Devlin, James Harvey, Mike Webster, Esther Froggatt, Jack and Rita Nicholls, Michael Carney.

Anniversaries: Robert Higgins, Olive Pennington, Ray Evans, Joan Docherty, Fred Whittaker (Birthday Anniversary), Fintan Maguire, Maureen Duffy, Winifred and Bill Hampton, Sheila Cusack, Doris Yates, Michael Smith, Anne and Clifford Preston, Mary Smith (Birthday Anniversary), Albert Maher, Ada Serapiglia, Maureen Yellop, Barbara Higgins.

Remembrance: Monica and John Potter, Mary and Frank Gribbin, Mary and Edward Kelly, Docherty family.

We also pray: for Jacob and Bernadette (marriage), all the nations represented in our parish, for children suffering from poverty, for the success of the Diocesan and Universal Synods, for migrants, for the people of the Holy Land and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for Myanmar and Sudan in their serious unrest, for Barbara Keeley, Rebecca Long-Bailey and all who serve us in Westminster, for peace all around the world, for an end to racism in all its forms. We pray for Fr John and the Syro-Malabar community, 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.

But what of us today? Are we expected to be greater people than the apostles themselves, to believe without having seen with our eyes? Far from it. "Receive the Holy Spirit" Jesus says as he breathes on them in the upper room. And in our Baptism too—"Receive the Holy Spirit." That same Spirit offers us the Faith to overcome our lack of vision because, as John tells us in today's second Reading, "The Spirit is Truth."

Our Faith is a free gift from God, given to us through the Holy Spirit but, like the apostles, once we have received the gift we can no longer lock ourselves away and keep it to ourselves. A Faith that is kept private, a "personal Faith" that is not talked about, will wither and die. We must share our joy in the Resurrection of Christ. As we meet in Church to nurture and strengthen our Faith by the sharing of God's Word and the Eucharist, so let us go forth with joy. As we witness, even in today's challenging world, so many people still doing so much good in ways both small and great, let us never forget to give thanks and praise to Christ, the author of all true goodness—and let us all play our part in sharing our Easter joy. He is truly risen! Alleluia!

THANK YOU...

...to everyone: altar servers, musicians, stewards, flower arrangers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Apparitors, church cleaners, caterers and so many more—too many to list by name—who have helped with our Easter programme. The hard work of so many, and the great team efforts, are a wonderful tribute to the strength of the community spirit within our parish. And from Fr Martin (and his mother) on a personal note, thank you also for the cards, gifts and good wishes.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The monthly prize draw will take place after the 9.15am Mass at St Mary's. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- The Easter hamper raffle will take place after the draw.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Last week's collection in church totalled £1,654.18. Thank you! The Lenten Challenge so far stands at £1,169.44. 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. (*Sorry, these devices remain at least partially "down" at the moment, but we hope this will be resolved as soon as possible*).

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Christians of the Holy Land.

Next week: Monthly collection for the work of the parish SVP.

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 it is then lowered immediately. They can cause serious injury to the young and to the elderly if they fall.

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 as announced at 11.15am Masses
Refreshments after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
and after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross each week
Sunday Evening: 6.30pm at St Mary's
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

Divine Mercy Sunday Sat 6th April: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday, with Fr John) *
 Sunday 7th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
Annunciation of the Lord Monday 8th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
 Tuesday 9th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 2.00pm Rosary for the protection of the unborn, at St Gilbert's Presbytery—
All welcome
 Wednesday 10th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 Thursday 11th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 Friday 12th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament * (with Confessions available)
 followed 7.00pm Mass, at Holy Cross *
 Saturday 13th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (with Confessions available)
 followed by 12 noon Mass at St Mary's
 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross *
3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday 14th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas)
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

* Livestreamed

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 be viewed live and during the week on our [YouTube channel](#).

DIOCESAN SYNOD PRAYER

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.**

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of St Francis of Assisi, Oldham, for Fr Kevin Tierney, and for their parish primary school.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

Please ensure that your children are supervised to and from the toilet. First Communion and other Sacramental Programme children will be asked to go to the grown-up who brought them, so that you can see them safely back. Please help us to keep your children safe at all times. Thank you!

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
Facebook: @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, 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 921 1671 (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