



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 in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 1

SALT TO THE EARTH, LIGHT TO THE WORLD

What is it that drives forward our world's great economies? Finance? Resources? Energy? Productivity? Effort? The material world needs all of these and more to move onwards from day to day, to preserve and advance the lifestyles to which we are accustomed. But what about those times when it all goes wrong? What happens when the great banks collapse, when the crops fail or where the land is flooded and livelihoods all but destroyed? Then come into play the more noble attributes of our humanity: care, support, sharing—stepping back from our own needs and recognising the greater needs of others. Then the Gospel message of mutual love and support comes more clearly into focus, and its relevance for modern times is beyond doubt.

But the teaching of Jesus does not begin and end with care and support for our fellow human beings in material crisis. More deeply, Jesus speaks of another human need which goes beyond economic welfare and the sharing of wealth and resources. His Gospel also teaches us of a hope that cannot be destroyed by storms, cannot be stolen by thieves, cannot be dashed by human tragedy or loss. This is a hope for eternity which inspires us to look beyond the limited world we see; a knowledge of Christ's presence which never permits of loneliness; an understanding of the free gift of spiritual joy which money cannot buy. And here, our Christian mission to live out our faith—to be salt to the earth, and light to the world—does not come to an end when our charitable deeds are done.

Day by day, we are called simply to 'be' Christians—to share our Faith publicly in the little things we do and in the ways we live and speak. As St Paul tells us in today's second Reading, it does not demand of us great eloquence. Nor does it demand that we lash out at everyone and everything that does not agree with us, and be unholy nuisances in the process! Just simply 'be'. And if our lives are properly ordered, if prayer has its proper place, and if our eyes are kept open to the pain and suffering around us, then our being—and its consequences for good—will be enough. Let God do the rest.

STREET PASTORS

Street pastors are an inter-denominational group of Christians who go out, working in twos, living the Gospel message and offering care and support to people in need on the streets—more people than you might imagine. Sadly, their ministry in Eccles is under threat from a shortage of volunteers. Next Sunday (February 15th) we will be welcoming Christine Leach, from Street Pastors, to speak after Holy Communion at the 11.15am and 6.30pm Masses, to tell us about their work and how fulfilling this ministry can be for those willing to give a little of their time. If you are interested but will be attending a different Mass, please let us know and we can pass on the information we receive and, if you wish, put you in touch with Christine.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Jessie, Jacqueline, Denise, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Jan, Margaret, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, David, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Michael Campbell, Margaret Reddington, Abbie, Richard Owen, Sandra Ferguson, Michael Young, Tony Bannister, Joan Siddall, Liz Royal, Jim Collins, Sean Casey, Janice Kelly, Anna Maria Bernadette Twigg, Diane Soraci, Emmanuel ("Manny") Attard.

Anniversaries: Esther Roddy, Ann Geeney, Mary Ferm, Maurice O'Kell, Bill Trace, Kath Kitson, Kathleen Brehony, Anthony Nash (died age 4), John Twemlow (1st Anniv—Saturday Vigil Mass), Norman Helps, Ann Rickard.

Remembrance: Charles and Agnes Agnes Geeney, Marie and John Payne, Bill and Lilian Hindley, James Carson, Josephine Doherty, Patrick, Mary and Paddy Rice.

We also pray: for Sr Joan Kerley FMSJ (Golden Jubilee), for Pope Leo and the Church throughout the world, the cancellation of world debt, for the people of the Middle East and Ukraine and all those affected by the wars there, for other countries suffering unrest, for victims of terrorist attacks, 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 peace all around the world, 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.

NEWS FROM ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

We hope all parishioners have enjoyed a wonderful start to 2026! We certainly have at St Patrick's; please find our January news (missed off the newsletter at the time, sorry) below:

- We are grateful to Fr Martin for celebrating Mass with us for the Epiphany, ensuring we begin the new term in the right way!
- Year 11 have also celebrated Mass together, and are coming together in form groups to worship during Wednesday Prayer in our beautiful Chapel.
- Year 9 have been busy visiting Year 3 classes in their previous partner primary schools to present and answer questions about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- We are having a whole school focus on better understanding the principles and theology behind Catholic Social Teaching, and creating opportunities to put these principles into practice!
- Staff are already busy preparing for Lent through the work of our staff Ethos Committee.
- Governors have visited to review the Catholic Life & Mission of the School, as well as Collective Worship; we are always grateful for opportunities to share the work we do with our dedicated and committed Governing body.
- We have presented to parents and carers via our Family Forum on our provision for Collective Worship at St Patrick's; we are grateful to all who joined us, and for the positive feedback!
- Leaders have been inspired through attendance at Salford Diocese's annual Leadership Conference, where we were fortunate to hear from Bishop John Arnold amongst many other thought-provoking speakers and opportunities to worship together.

FAMILY RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor from March 27-29th at £160-230 per family. For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more information, visit <https://castleriggmanor.com/events/>

May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor. In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info, go to <https://castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us/>

A 'THANK YOU' from Sr CECILY

We have received a message of thanks from Sr Cecily for all the Christmas cards and good wishes received.

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.**

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.

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 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 website for further information

Calendar for This Week

Sat 7th February: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday)
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Sunday 8th:** 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
Monday 9th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
Tuesday 10th: 11.00am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Emmanuel Attard—*May he rest in peace*
 2.00pm Pro-Life Rosary Group at St Gilbert's Presbytery—*All welcome*
Our Lady of Lourdes **Wednesday 11th:** 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 First Holy Communion Catechist-led Classes as arranged in the evening (St Mary's)
Thursday 12th: *Sorry, no Mass today as Clergy are at a diocesan meeting*
Friday 13th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
Saturday 14th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*Confessions available*)
 followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Sunday 15th:** 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

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 £1,053.65. The retiring collection raised £496.10 for Caritas, Diocese of Salford. 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. Thank you!



CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the people of the parish of St Chad's and for Fr Richard and the Manchester Oratory. We pray for their parish primary school and for the Chaplaincy to HMP Manchester.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- This month's winners of the Monthly Prize Draw are:
 £ 100 169 Jesamine A
 £ 30 204 Peter C
 £ 20 239 Sheila N
- The 50:50 fundraiser continues this week. Tickets cost £1 and are available after all Masses.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection
 Next week: No retiring collection next week

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/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 *(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