



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

3rd
Sunday of
Lent

Daily
Prayer
Week 3

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

A remarkable meeting. Two people encountering each other at a well in the time of Jesus may seem nothing unusual, but this meeting is different. The woman is in familiar territory, a Samaritan in her own land, collecting a bucket of water as she frequently did to satisfy her needs and those of her family. But the man does not belong here. He is a stranger, a Jew, passing through a foreign, racist land where he must feel naturally unwelcome. All the social norms tell him to wait at a distance until the woman has gone. She should have no time for him, nor he for her. But Jesus has never been governed by social norms, nor will he accept attitudes which divide one person from another. So, he goes straight to the well, and moreover begins a conversation—asks for a drink. The woman is taken aback—why is he speaking to her? Why does he trust her to be civil in return? And here sparks the first flame of Faith.

In the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, all parties are surprised and confused. Even Jesus's own disciples, who are no strangers to his challenging words and attitudes, cannot grasp quite what is going on. But for the woman, for her family and friends, for the whole village, the trust and understanding forged in these few brief words open a whole world of Truth in which there are foreigners no more, but loved and valued children of God instead.

If we will take the trouble to meet Christ in each other, our eyes too will be opened to all manner of new possibilities. If we see not the differences that separate us, but rather our common heritage in the God who made us all in his image and likeness, then truths beyond our grasp will begin to make sense. Our paths and our futures will be illuminated by the One who gently asks us for a drink and then gives more than we could ever imagine in return.

Who is the stranger at the well for us? Can we listen, trust, share and be made new again?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

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

Lately Dead: Flo Riley, Jessie Collins (funeral at Holy Cross on 23rd March, 11.30am), Susan Mary Hill, Joan Vanderlee, Samuel Assah, Jim MacDonald, Fr Francis Austin, Fr Robert Morrow, Chris Basson, Margaret Reddington, Mohamed Kader, Bernard Scott.

Anniversaries: Thomas Brehony, Brian Platt, Jimmy Evans, Esther Froggatt, Joan Baillie, Winifred Hannan, Gerard Sewell (Birthday Anniv), Sylvia Dickinson, George Devlin (90th Birthday Anniv), Sean Fanning, Martin Roddy, Gerard Nicholls (22nd Anniv), Maura McLernon (5th Anniv), Peter McGrory (100th Birthday Anniv), Catherine and John Dempsey, Michael Murphy.

We also pray: for the residents of Monica Court, for Pope Leo and the Church throughout the world, the cancellation of world debt, for the people of Iran, all 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.

LENTEN STATION MASSES

Deanery Station Masses continue this week here in our own parish, with Bishop John as main celebrant. Do, please, come and join us! All the remaining dates and venues are listed below. Each of the Masses will be on a **Wednesday at 7.30pm**, and each will offer Confessions for half an hour before Mass:

- **This Wednesday, (11th March)—Holy Cross, with Bishop John**
- 18th March—Ss Peter and Paul's, Pendleton
- 25th March—St Teresa's, Irlam

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT

Each Friday of Lent we celebrate the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm in Holy Cross Church, as part of the weekly Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Thank you for your continued support as we try to work together in preparing your children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please ensure their attendance at Mass is maintained as we move towards the final and most important part of the preparation focusing, after Easter, on the Eucharistic Prayer and on Holy Communion itself and why it is so important to us.

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

- This month's winners of the Monthly Prize Draw are:

£ 100	116	Anne-Marie H
£ 30	207	Rita M
£ 20	146	Rosemary C
- The winner of the 50:50 is Jean F who won £157. The same amount goes to parish funds.
- The Easter raffle starts this week. Tickets cost £1 and are available after all Masses.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection (+ Challenge continues...)
Next week: Lenten Challenge continues!

MONTH OF RAMADAN

We continue to wish to all our Muslim neighbours "Ramadan Mubarak"—a blessed Ramadan—as they observe (until 19th March) their annual season of fasting. *During this time, we are happy to welcome members of the Eccles Mosque community to use our car park at St Mary's during the evenings.*

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 website for further information

Calendar for This Week

	Sat 7th March:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday)	
<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	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 (with Fr Stanto)	* Livestreamed
	Monday 9th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>	
	Tuesday 10th:	<i>Sorry, no Mass today as the clergy are at a Deanery Conference</i> 2.00pm Pro-Life Rosary at St Gilbert's Presbytery—All welcome	
	Wednesday 11th:	7.30pm Deanery Lenten Station Mass at Holy Cross with Bishop John <i>with Confessions from 7.00pm</i>	
<i>Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent—6.30pm at Holy Cross</i>	Thursday 12th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
	Friday 13th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions with 6.30pm Stations of the Cross for Lent * followed by 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *	
	Saturday 14th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (<i>Confessions available</i>) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
<i>4th Sunday of Lent</i>	Sunday 15th:	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—we will announce the details next weekend. 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!



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.

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of St Clare, Blackley, for Fr Jeremiah Budau, OFM Conv, and the Franciscan community. We pray for their parish primary school and Our Lady's High School, for the Good Shepherd Sisters and for the chaplaincy to the Romanian community.

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](https://www.facebook.com/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