



# 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  
Lent

Daily  
Prayer  
Week 1

## THE LAST GREAT SIGN

Today we hear the Gospel story of Jesus's final sign before his institution of the Eucharist. His friend Lazarus dies and, with the fullness of human emotion, Jesus weeps with sorrow. But as we know, his own Resurrection will prove that death is not the end and now, in anticipation of this and in response to Martha and Mary's plea, he brings his ministry to Bethany and calls into the tomb. Invoking the name of the Father, his voice reaches out to the dead Lazarus and raises him up.

There are messages here for us all. As Jesus was prompted by the call of his friends Martha and Mary to act in his Father's Name in Bethany, so we have a role today in encouraging and calling others into God's service. Could we encourage someone we know to consider service as a priest or religious? Then, as we think of the miraculous raising of Lazarus from the dead, we can be reminded that there are many ways in which today we cling to death ourselves even in life—our sins, our weakness, our failed plans for good. Jesus calls to us too, offering us a lifeline. And we must do the same for our neighbour. Who do we know who is dead even in the midst of life? In Jesus's name, can ours be the voice that calls out and heals?

## ECO-FRIENDLY SHOP

A group of year 5 children at St Mary's school proudly run an eco-friendly refill shop at school. The shop offers a variety of everyday products that are made from 100% natural eco-friendly ingredients. They sell items such as soap bars, shampoo bars, and refill products including hand soaps, bubble bath, shower gel, dish soap and laundry soap—products that we all use on a daily basis. The children would now like to give parishioners and community friends an opportunity to buy their products. They will therefore open their shop (which is cash only) **after 9.30am Mass next Sunday** (28th March, Palm Sunday).

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Wojciech, Mark, 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:** Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister), Jessie Collins (Fr Martin's mother, Funeral at Holy Cross on Monday, 11.30am), Anne Heaton (Funeral at St Mary's on Tuesday, 11.30am), Alan Brackenridge (Funeral at Holy Cross on Friday at 1.00pm), Flo Riley, Susan Mary Hill, Joan Vanderlee.

**Anniversaries:** David, Paul and Tommie Greene (9.30am Mass on Palm Sunday), George Devlin (2nd Anniv), Pierce Carlos, Mary Smith (90th Birthday Anniv), Doris Yates, Jim Shaw, Michael Smith (50th Anniv), Thomas Brehony, Brian Platt, Jimmy Evans, Esther Froggatt, Joan Baillie, Winifred Hannan, Gerard Sewell (Birthday Anniv), Sylvia Dickinson.

**Remembrance:** John Payne, Josephine Doherty and James Carson, also Agnes and Ann Geeney, Lilian Hindley, Sheila Devlin and Ada Serapiglia (Mothering Sunday blessings)

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

The children will have bottles for you to fill, or you are welcome to bring your own. Please let us try to support this eco-friendly initiative that the children have worked so hard to achieve.

## LENTEN STATION MASSES

Thank you to all those who have been supporting our Station Masses this year. **Our final Deanery Mass will be this Wednesday** at 7.30pm, with Confessions for half an hour beforehand.

- 25th March—St Joseph the Worker, Irlam (*not St Teresa's!*)

## 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.

## EASTER SERVICE TIMES

Holy Thursday

**Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm at St Mary's**  
with Watching until 10.00pm, ending with Night Prayer

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 10.30am at Holy Cross  
*Rehearsal for Servers and Musicians, 12 noon at Holy Cross*

**Afternoon Liturgy of the Passion, 3.00pm at St Mary's**

Holy Saturday

11.00am Polish Food Blessing at Holy Cross

**The Easter Vigil, 7.45pm at Holy Cross**

*Refreshments will be served in the Community Hall afterwards  
Do, please, stay a while and join us!*

Easter Sunday

**Daytime Masses, 9.30am and 6.30pm at St Mary's**  
11.15am at Holy Cross

## 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

Tickets for the Easter raffle will be on sale after Mass at £1.00.

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week and next: Lenten Challenge continues!

## RED MISSION BOXES

All who have red Mission Boxes in their homes are asked, please, to bring them along to the church so that money can be counted and sent to the APF (part of "Missio"), after which the boxes will be returned to you. **Please ensure your name appears on the box.** Thank 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 are normally served after 9.30am Mass at St Mary's*  
*and this week after 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross with St Patrick's School*  
**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 21st March:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	Sunday 22nd:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's	<b>* Livestreamed</b>
	Monday 23rd:	11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Jessie Collins (Fr Martin's mother) * <i>May she rest in peace—All welcome</i>	
	Tuesday 24th:	11.30am Funeral Mass at St Mary's for Anne Heaton— <i>May she rest in peace</i> 6.00pm First Holy Communion Reconciliation Service at Holy Cross	
<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	Wednesday 25th:	<b>7.30pm Deanery Lenten Station Mass at St Joseph the Worker RC Church</b> off Cutnook Ln, Irlam, M44 6GX, with Confessions from 7.00pm	
	Thursday 26th:	9.45am Rosary for Peace followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
<i>Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent—6.30pm at Holy Cross</i>	Friday 27th:	1.00pm Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Alan Brackenridge— <i>May he rest in peace</i> 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 28th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ( <i>Confessions available</i> ) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's 4.00pm Confirmation Group session at Holy Cross Community Hall 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	Sunday 29th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)	

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 £1,092.88. The Lent/Easter Challenge (for "Missio") currently stands at £1,577.51—more than half way to the £3,000 target! 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!



## 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!

## CYCLE OF PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of St Dunstan and St John Vianney, Moston, and for Fr Job Zirra Stephen, their priest, together with their parish primary school and St Matthew's High School. We pray for the residents of St Mary's Care Home and for the repose of the souls of all buried in St Joseph's Cemetery.

## 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](http://www.ourparishcommunity.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [@ourparishcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/ourparishcommunity)  
**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaullIIIccles/](https://www.youtube.com/ParishofStJohnPaullIIIccles/)

**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*