



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



WERE YOU THERE...?

Today is **Palm Sunday**, when we begin the holiest week of our Christian calendar with the celebration of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, just days before the crowds turn and call for his death. This is the week without which Christianity would never have been born. It is our holiest time of the year, approaching its climax on Thursday, as we begin the solemn 'Easter Triduum'—three days which, as a continual devotion, immerse us into the very depths of our being as Christians. Today we read St Luke's account of the Passion of Our Lord, and reflect upon the events which took place in this week, 2000 years ago—with children from St Mary's School dramatising the Passion at the 9.30am Mass. Thus, our celebrations will begin, and this year, as we reflect upon Jesus' actions for *all* people, so we reinforce our sense of unity in the parish of St John Paul II when, as a parish, we come together on Holy Thursday and Good Friday at St Mary's church, and on Holy Saturday at Holy Cross. Let us really make an effort to be one with Christ and with each other as we meet:

On **Holy Thursday**, we sit with the Disciples at the Last Supper, witnessing the gift of the Eucharist as though for the first time. And after Mass, we watch with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, watching before the Blessed Sacrament for a time of silent prayer and reflection. Those who wish will stay until Night Prayer and Benediction, at 10.00pm. *Were you there, when He gave himself in bread and wine? Were you there in the Garden of Tears? Will you be there, at St Mary's, on Thursday?*

On **Good Friday**, (a day of fasting and abstinence), the story resumes as we call to mind Jesus's arrest, his trial under Pontius Pilate, the Way of the Cross and his death for us all. *Were you there when they Crucified our Lord? Will you be there, at St Mary's, on Friday?*

(On Good Friday there will also be Stations of the Cross devotions, 10.30am at Holy Cross, and a silent ecumenical walk of witness in the evening. See Calendar opposite).

Then, on **Saturday night**, we gather around the Paschal (Easter) fire. In what is perhaps the richest and most powerful service of the year, we witness the Resurrection—that central Truth of our Faith, which gives us hope in every trial and rejoice to welcome several adults into our parish family. *Were you there, when he rose from out the tomb? Will you be there, at Holy Cross, on Saturday night?*

Our solemn Triduum services—in effect, a single celebration divided into three parts over three days and two churches—will end with a social celebration of the Risen Lord in the Community Hall at Holy Cross after the Vigil on Saturday. Join with us, please!

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, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, David, Natalie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Deacon Stephen O'Connor, Pauline Weyman, Eddie Lindsay, Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister), Anne Heaton, Alan Brackenridge, Flo Riley, Jessie Collins (Fr Martin's mother).

Anniversaries: David, Paul and Tommie Greene (9.30am Mass today, Palm Sunday), Winifred and Bill Hampton, Martin Platt (Birthday Anniv), 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.

Remembrance: Mary Gribbin (Easter Remembrance), John Payne, Josephine Doherty and James Carson, also Agnes and Ann Geeney, Lilian Hindley, Sheila Devlin and Ada Serapiglia.

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 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.

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 today (Sunday)**. 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.

NEWS FROM St PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

- Thank you to Fr Martin for celebrating Mass with Year 8! Pupils enjoyed the calmness of Mass, singing hymns together and receiving Holy Communion. Two Year 8s said they felt "a renewed sense of hope and faith". Thank you as well to parents and carers who joined us. **A reminder that parishioners are also welcome to join our First Friday Masses in school—our next Mass is on 1st May with Year 9, starting at 9.00am. Please arrive and sign-in at reception beforehand if you'd like to attend!**
- Our fundraising for CAFOD continued with the 'Big Lent Colour Walks', in solidarity with Hindu members of our school community who celebrated Holi during the same week. We raised a staggering **£1,298.18** for CAFOD this Lent, and have since turned our attention to another very worthy cause chosen by pupils - Mary's Meals.
- All pupils and staff came together to celebrate the feast day of St Patrick with two wonderful Masses, celebrated at Holy Cross. It was fantastic to see so many pupils participating through various ministries (e.g. singing in choir, altar serving, reading) and to hear our pupils singing together joyfully.
- A group of pupils returned for Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday 22nd March, where they had the privilege of doing the collection and offertory before serving refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards. Thank you to all parishioners for the very warm welcome, and for joining us for tea and toast after Mass!
- Finally, we wished Muslim staff and pupils Eid Mubarak on Friday 20th March. Pupils enjoyed the Eid Tasting Table of food and treats, bracelet making and card crafting.

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 all Masses. Price £1.00. The winning tickets will be drawn on Easter Sunday after the monthly prize draw.
- The monthly prize draw will take place in St. Mary's hall after the 9.30 Mass on Easter Sunday. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- We will be holding a parish afternoon tea with bingo and a raffle on Bank holiday Monday, May 4th at 2.00 pm. Tickets will cost £5.00 and will be available after all Masses on 11/12th April.

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
Holidays: 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 Holy Week—Services marked in Red

Saturday 28th March: **6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross** (Vigil Mass for Sunday) (*Livestreamed*)
Sunday 29th: **9.30am Mass at St Mary's**
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
6.30pm Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
Monday 30th: *Sorry, no Mass on Mondays*
Tuesday 31st: **10.00am Mass at Holy Cross** (*Livestreamed*)
Wednesday 1st April: No Parish Mass today
*We are seeking representatives to attend the **Chrism Mass** at St Patrick's, Collyhurst*

Holy Thursday

St Mary's School Assembly, 9.15am in St Mary's Church—All welcome
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm at St Mary's
with Watching before the Blessed Sacrament, ending with **Night Prayer** at 10.00pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 10.30am at Holy Cross
Rehearsal for Altar Servers and Musicians 12.00 noon at Holy Cross
Afternoon Liturgy of the Passion, 3.00pm at St Mary's
Ecumenical Walk of Witness—meet up at 6.30pm inside St Marys (RC) Church

Holy Saturday

Polish Food Blessing, 11.00am at Holy Cross
The Easter Vigil, 7.45pm at Holy Cross (*Livestreamed*)
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 (with Fr Stanto) at St Mary's
11.15am at Holy Cross (*Livestreamed*)

This 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](#).



RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Lenten Challenge continues!
Next week: Christians of the Holy Land (+ Challenge continues)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,234.24.
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 St Margaret Mary's, New Moston, for Fr Andrew Starkie together with the Manchester Ordinariate Mission. We pray for their parish primary school and for the Presentation Sisters. We also remember Deacon Stephen O'Connor, who served this community and who died this past 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](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