



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

Daily 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 in. 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 concoct a story like this? Are they just trying to avoid the truth? Are they creating an escape for themselves from their self-imposed captivity, a great story to help them back out into the world? Great indeed the story might be, but Thomas cannot let himself be drawn in. Honesty forces him to hold back—this is all just too unbelievable. Unless the evidence is presented irrefutably, his loyalty to the group of friends simply will not stretch so far.

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

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 the disciples in the upper room. And in our Baptism too—"Receive the Holy Spirit." That same Spirit comes to give us the Faith to overcome our lack of vision because, as we are told elsewhere, "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 never 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. Then our enthusiasm might infect the world around us, and others may come to seek the Truth that will set them free.

Surely, we need this "infection with joy" in our world today more than ever. Such a small minority of pseudo-religious people misuse the concept of religion to force upon others their own political agendas, and to seek power for themselves out of the administration of fear and oppression. And so many more in society are ready to hold up these few as a fearful example, to try to condemn every form of religion and advance their own secular agendas in its place. On this 'Divine Mercy' Sunday, we must stand up for the truths of our Christian Faith (and indeed the truth shared by the vast majority of other faiths and cultures). Our God is a God of mercy, compassion and forgiveness. All who call themselves Christian are entrusted with the duty to oppose every manifestation of oppression, persecution or forceful coercion with the tools of that mercy, compassion and forgiveness. These are the powers of the risen Lord, and the real joy of Easter which we are given to share. And this is our challenge—an Easter challenge—for, as Christians, we are first and foremost an Easter people, with Good News for all the world.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

TODAY (Sunday, 12th April), Divine Mercy devotions will be celebrated at St James' Church, Heywood Way, Salford M6 5UJ from 2-4pm. (These will include the "3 O'Clock Prayer" and will offer the opportunity for Confessions, but will **not** include Mass). All are welcome.

24 HOURS WITH THE LORD

Following the success of this event during last year's Jubilee, we will once again be holding 24 hours before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm on Friday 8th May, concluding with Benediction and the regular 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Holy Cross on Saturday 9th May. More information will follow next week, but please make a note in your diary.

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	119	Mary S
£ 30	108	Sue E
£ 20	184	Valerie L
- The winners of the Easter Raffle are:

1	Ann C
2	Jeremiah F
3	Leanne
4	Bronagh
5	Nicole

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser and to those who donated the prizes. A total of £328.14 was raised for parish funds.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

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

Lately Dead: Kathleen Wyrivas, Deacon Stephen O'Connor, Pauline Weyman, Eddie Lindsay, Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister), Anne Heaton, Alan Brackenridge.

Anniversaries: Olive Pennington, Kevin Fahey, Raymond Evans, David, Paul and Tommie Greene, Maureen Duffy, Winifred and Bill Hampton, Martin Platt (Birthday Anniv), George Devlin (2nd Anniv), Pierce Carlos, Mary Smith (90th Birthday Anniv), Doris Yates.

Remembrance: Loduvico, Ludy, Nilo, Mamerta and Porferio Sudoy, Crecenciano, Pasencia, Victoriano, Decederio, Rogelio, Rodolfo Sr and Martizano Jalea, Mario Sr, Gloria and Joseph Diamante, Sheila and George Devlin, Mary Gribbin (Easter Remembrance), John Payne, Josephine Doherty and James Carson, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Lilian Hindley.

We also pray: for Easter blessings, for the Diamante Family in thanksgiving for blessings received, for Pope Leo and the Church throughout the world, for the people of Iran, Lebanon 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.

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 11th April:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	Sunday 12th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas) 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
	Monday 13th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>
	Tuesday 14th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Wednesday 15th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Thursday 16th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Friday 17th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, at Holy Cross *
	Saturday 18th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
<i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	Sunday 19th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 4.30pm Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's

* Livestreamed

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 £1,502.72. The retiring collection raised £222.35 for the Christians of the Holy Land. The Lenten Mission Challenge was raised by a further £238.40. 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, (above), if you would like to donate to the parish today. Thank you!



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!

CYCLE of PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parishioners of St Anne's parish, Openshaw, for Fr Churchill Emeghera, MSSCC, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

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
Facebook: [@ourparishcommunity](#)
YouTube: 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