



# 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 Easter

Daily  
Prayer  
Week 3

## THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

The story of the events on the road to Emmaus is deeply entrenched in our understanding of Christ's Resurrection. It is one of His famous appearances—and yet it is more than that. The way in which the two disciples only gradually realise who their companion is, and the final recognition at the Breaking of Bread—this is a story which is so relevant in our search for the Divine today, to us who, as Jesus put it in last week's Gospel, 'have not seen and yet believe.' But what is this place? Why is Emmaus significant at all?

The fact is, the name Emmaus would be unheard of by most of us, apart from the one mention it gets in St Luke's Gospel. (Yes, the name appears nowhere else in the whole of the Bible!) And in the story, the place really does not matter at all. The two disciples *leave* Jerusalem. That leaving is the point of significance—at a time when 'pilgrimage' was a concept of great importance, here we see the disciples on a sort of 'anti-pilgrimage' leaving the heartland of their religion, leaving the mount of their Temple, and leaving the place where they have seen the one they thought was to be their Saviour die, and with his death their hopes come to an end. Their leaving is indeed significant. But where does their journey ultimately lead? Nowhere! They finish up back in Jerusalem again, back home where they began. Yet they have been changed—not by the place they visited, but by the journey itself. Now, Jerusalem is a place of pilgrimage for them once more. Now their Faith is renewed.

So what happened to them on the road? They met a stranger, a man who for a short while let them believe he knew nothing of the events in Jerusalem those last few days, who let them voice their fears and their disappointments. Then, little by little he 'opened their minds.' He quoted to them passages of Scripture they thought they knew well, yet now they heard as though for the first time. Texts from the Old Testament and the Psalms came to life with a new relevance, speaking to them of the Saviour they thought they had lost. Slowly they recognised the presence of God in the Word they heard, and

then fully recognised that Word made flesh in the Breaking of Bread. The Word brought them to the Eucharist, and there in love they found a truth which had to be shared, which had to be brought back home again to their friends.

*Have you journeyed to Emmaus recently? Have you really received the Word in our Mass, and found our Risen Lord in the Eucharist? Have you shared the joy He came to bring? For that is what we ourselves are called to do as God's Easter people today. And that is what our parish needs as we move forward, and embrace new parish members which we do on a regular basis, and as undoubtedly we will face new challenges too!*

## 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. From next week we will be looking for volunteers to sign up and promise to attend at particular times, to ensure we have two people in church at all times. (Once we have two promised attendees, any number of others can, of course, attend, without any booking needed). More will be said about this next week.

## MAY DAY PILGRIMAGE

On **Sunday 10th May**, beginning at 1.00pm, this event at the St John Fisher (Schoenstatt) Shrine in Kearsley will involve Holy Mass and the Crowning of Our Lady in the Schoenstatt Shrine. There will also be a Holy Hour meditation with Divine Mercy prayers, and an opportunity for Group Discussion. The day is scheduled to end at approximately 5:30pm. Children are welcome to attend and Light refreshments will be served, but attendees are also welcome to bring their own food if they wish. We have been invited to take a group from this parish to join the event—please speak to the Parish Office if you would like to join such a group. More details can be found on the noticeboard at the back of each church.

## YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE

Following on from the success of last years pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, the diocese is offering young people in Years 7, 8 and 9 another opportunity to go to Lindisfarne from Friday 22nd May—Sunday 24th May 2026. The cost is £120 which includes travel by coach and full board accommodation. We will be staying on the island at the SVP Camp. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk).

## 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 parish afternoon tea to be held on Bank holiday Monday, 4th May from 2.00—4.00pm are on sale after all Masses except for the 6.30pm at St Mary's. Tickets cost £5.00.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Irene, 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:** June Harper, Anthony O'Donnell, Sr Lucy Dunne FMSJ, Kathleen Wyrivas, Deacon Stephen O'Connor, Pauline Weyman, Eddie Lindsay, Elizabeth Konamah (Fr Nicholas' sister).

**Anniversaries:** Helen Shannon, Christopher Doyle, Austin Tighe, Olive Pennington, Kevin Fahey, Raymond Evans.

**Remembrance:** Patrick Joseph Nash, Anthony Nash (Birthday Anniv), Elizabeth and Christopher Doyle, John and Monica Potter, 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).

**We also pray:** for Monica and Maciej (married at St Mary's last week), for the Diamante Family in thanksgiving for blessings received, for Pope Leo's visit to Africa, 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 Stan-to 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  
**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 This Week

<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b>	Sat 18th April:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *	* <b>Livestreamed</b>
	Sunday 19th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross <b>4.30pm Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life at Holy Cross *</b> 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's	
	Monday 20th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>	
	Tuesday 21st:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
	Wednesday 22nd:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
<b>St George</b>	Thursday 23rd:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *	
	Friday 24th:	11.30am Funeral Mass at St Mary's for Pauline Weymann— <i>May she rest in peace</i> 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, at Holy Cross *	
	Saturday 25th:	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 with Fr Stanto) *	
<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b>	Sunday 26th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 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 £1,305.67. The retiring collection raised £236.17 for the work of our SVP Group. The Lenten "Missio" Challenge was raised by a further £325.00 bringing the total to £3,316.56 with more funds still to be added. 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!



## 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!

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No official retiring collection this week or next, but...

## ...TALKS FROM "AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED"

Next weekend at all Masses there will be a talk on behalf of the charity "Aid to the Church in Need" which is currently at work in some of the most difficult areas of our world. They are not formally appealing for donations, but nonetheless we may run an informal collection for them after the Masses.

## 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/ParishofStJohnPaulIIEcclcs/](https://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*