



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOHN PAUL II, ECCLES

Services usually held at: Holy Cross, Patricroft and St Mary's, Eccles

Parish Office: Holy Cross Presbytery, 370 Liverpool Road, Patricroft, M30 8QD



## Happy Birthday!

Today we celebrate a great Birthday. And in a sense, it is our own. Our "rebirth" in Baptism was made possible through the Word of Our Lord, preached by the Apostles, in the light of Pentecost. Today in the Upper Room, the infant Church was born as the Spirit came on the Apostles, dispelling the fear that had kept them hidden away. He came to answer their uncertainties, to give them the means that would enable them to face the challenges ahead. The Spirit moved them forward, no longer dependent upon the physical presence of their Risen Lord, no longer in need of the reassurance of his voice, but instead filled with confidence that he would always be at their side, whether they could see him or not. In the Spirit, Christ would achieve all things through them—and through us too.

Today is no mere memory of history. Like so many of the great events in our Salvation, we do not remind ourselves today so much of what happened in that upper room, but rather of what is happening in our world today. We cannot fail to notice the increasing numbers of adults who have sought reception into the Catholic Church in recent years. For all who believe and call upon the Holy Spirit, he will bring about that renewal and fill us today with the same confidence and clarity that filled the minds and hearts of those first Apostles, sending them out in Jesus's name. We, too, are given the power to overcome our human weakness, to see beyond the tragedy of this world's suffering—great though we know this is—and to recognise a living presence in today's world that is greater than any of us, and more powerful than any hurt or sorrow.

If we wish to see all of this, all we need to do is trust—abandon ourselves into the love which is God, holding nothing of ourselves back from the light of the Spirit. And then? Be empowered by the strength he brings. Be changed. Be perfected. Be loved.

Let us use this Birthday celebration well, and begin anew.

## PIETY SHOPS

Our Piety Shops are fully stocked with First Holy Communion cards and gifts. Please support our shops!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

**The sick:** Baby Jude, Jackie, Julie Ann, Josie, Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Margaret, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

**Lately Dead:** Paula Ormerod, Michael Patrick Telfer, Pauline McArdle, Joan Gidman, Joseph Parr, Fr Peter McGiveron, Carl Letham, Doris Julia Au Yeung Margaret Malone.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Monks, John and Frances Billington, George Milton, Mark Rea, Anthony Evans, Mina D'Cunha (Tuesday's Mass), Mary Kelly, John Bunting, Sheila and George Devlin (66th wedding Anniv), John McPhillips, Mary Kelly, Catherine Smallwood, John Michael Lockyer, Jill Cheshire.

**We also pray:** for Fr Livesey on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination, Pope Leo, for the Jewish Community, 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 the Christians of Nigeria, 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 our local Councillors, 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.

## INTERNATIONAL MASS

At our 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross we celebrate the many languages and cultures of the Church with another International Mass. Refreshments from around the world will be served afterwards!

## Fr LIVESEY—DIAMOND JUBILEE

We congratulate Fr Livesey (Parish priest of the former St Mary's parish from 2000-2018) as he prepares to celebrate 60 years of Ordination. His celebration Mass will be on Monday 8th June, 7.00pm at St Joseph's, Accrington. If you would like to attend this Mass, please contact the parish office here at Holy Cross **by next Sunday, 31st May** so that we can pass on numbers, which parishioners of St Joseph's will need for catering purposes at the celebration afterwards.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

On Sunday 5th July, when the Syro-Malabar community celebrate their great Mission Feast, we will be moving the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass from St Mary's to Holy Cross Church to avoid parking difficulties. This will just be for the one occasion.

## NEW DAWN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

The **New Dawn Catholic Conference 2026** will take place at **All Saints Church** (Redclyffe Road, Manchester M41 7LG), celebrating 40 years under the theme "**Embrace the Father's Love**" (Luke 15). Two conferences will run: **29–31 May** and **3–7 August**, featuring excellent international speakers and clergy, daily Mass, praise and worship, talks, prayer ministry, children's and youth ministries, and opportunities for confession and personal prayer. Bookings are open for both events, with **day tickets and instalment options** available for the August conference. More information and booking at [www.princeofpeace.org.uk](http://www.princeofpeace.org.uk) and <https://booking.princeofpeace.org.uk/>

## POPE LEO'S INTENTION for the MONTH of MAY

"That everyone might have food." Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure everyone has access to quality food.

## LORETO 6TH FORM COLLEGE VACANCY

Loreto Sixth Form Catholic College is seeking to appoint a full-time teacher of Core Religious Education and Chaplaincy Support. Core RE has centrally planned resources and is not an examined subject. Therefore, there are no formal assessments and no significant marking commitments. As a Core RE teacher, your unique role will be to develop students spiritually, ethically and theologically. For more information, please go to the Loreto Website vacancies page. <https://www.loreto.ac.uk/vacancies/>

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

No retiring collection this week or next

## 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.**

## 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!

## 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>Pentecost Sunday</b>	Sat 23rd May:	Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) *
	Sunday 24th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's <b>11.15am International Mass at Holy Cross</b> 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
<b>Mary, Mother of the Church</b> <b>St Philip Neri</b>	Monday 25th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>
	Tuesday 26th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Eucharistic Service at Holy Cross
<b>St Augustine of Canterbury</b>	Wednesday 27th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Eucharistic Service at Holy Cross
<b>Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest</b>	Thursday 28th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Eucharistic Service at Holy Cross
	Friday 29th:	6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament /Confessions followed by 6.30pm Marian Service and 7.00pm Benediction and Mass (with Fr Fabias), all at Holy Cross
	Saturday 30th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ( <i>Confessions available</i> ) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass (with Fr Dermot), all at St Mary's 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Dermot) *
<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Sunday 31st:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Dermot) 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Dermot) 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

\* 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 £951.123. The proceeds from the Bring and Buy and retiring collection for the Fr Bashobora Foundation currently stand at around £900, with more still expected. 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, again, for your generosity!



## 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 Our Lady and St Patrick, Oldham, for Fr Philip Sumner, their parish priest, for their parish primary schools and for the chaplaincy to the Cantonese Catholic Community.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The next monthly prize draw will take place on Sunday, June 7th after the 9.30am Mass at St Mary's. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- The new year for the monthly prize draw starts on 1st June. Can you please let Fran have your subscriptions—£26 for the year? If you would like to join this fundraiser please see Fran.
- The parish summer fair will take place on Saturday 11th July in St Mary's community hall. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses from May 30th. If you have any items to donate for the fair please leave them at the back of church. Thank you for your support.

## 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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[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*