



# 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

The Body and Blood of Christ

Daily Prayer Week 2

## FIRST COMMUNION DAY

A warm welcome on Sunday morning at Holy Cross Church to the third group of children from our First Holy Communion Programme and to their parents, families and friends as they continue the journey they began in Baptism and deepen their membership of God's Church. That is what "Communion" means—a real belonging to a community, the community which is the living Body of Christ at work amongst us now and for all time.

*This is a special time for the children, and we are sure you will all wish to respect the solemnity of the occasion. Please allow them every opportunity to experience the presence of God coming to dwell within them, through appropriate silence. For the same reason (as well as for safeguarding reasons), please refrain from all photography and videoing until after the ceremony is over—there will be plenty of opportunity to take photographs then. And please take part in the singing and the responses as best you can! Thank you.*

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

These are the remaining First Holy Communion Masses :

- Today (Sunday 7th June), 11.15am at Holy Cross
- Next Sunday (14th June), 9.30am at St Mary's
- Saturday (20th June), 6.00pm at Holy Cross
- Sunday 21st June, 11.15am at Holy Cross

Families are reminded that it is important that you come along to the Mass at which you are booked, where you will find a reserved bench with your name on it. Once again, we ask families, please, to limit guests in church to 8 per child to avoid problems with overcrowding. Thank you!

*Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers.*

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

"For the value of sports." Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

## 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:** Baby Penelope, Maureen Jones, Yvonne Fraser, Sr Ruth Ansaldo FMSJ, Paula Ormerod, Michael Patrick Telfer, Pauline McArdle, Joan Gidman, Joseph Parr, Fr Peter McGiveron, Carl Letham, Doris Julia Au Yeung Margaret Malone.

**Anniversaries:** Lily McNamara (5th Anniv, Wednesday's Mass), Janey McPhillips (3rd Anniv), Paul Jehu (2nd Anniv), Jessie Collins (98th Birthday remembrance), 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, Catherine Smallwood, John Michael Lockyer, Jill Cheshire.

**Remembrance:** Charles, Agnes and Ann Geeney, Marie Payne, William and Lilian Hindley.

**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.

## THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Today we celebrate the great feast, instituted in the Middle Ages, of the Body and Blood of Christ—"Corpus et Sanguinis Christi" in Latin. Whilst the formal Feast day began in 1246 in the diocese of Liege in Belgium, the tradition it represents goes right back to the heart of our Christian Faith, with Jesus himself consecrating bread and wine for his assembled apostles with the words "Take and eat, this is my Body; take and drink, this is my Blood." From that time onward, Christians have met for the Eucharistic meal, giving thanks to God (that's what the word "Eucharist" means) for all that he has done for us and especially for this greatest gift of all—Jesus, the Son of God, given to us as food for the journey through life.

As those early Eucharistic meals with prayers and readings from the scriptures and the church Fathers developed into what we now know as the Mass, so the growth of the Church as the family of God has encouraged us to "go forth" and share the gift we have received by our words of hope, but more especially by our deeds of love and graciousness—by lives lived in that Love which the Eucharist implants into our hearts.

The truth we celebrate in the Eucharist is both a mystery beyond comprehension and a wonder so simple it can easily be grasped by children—often more so than by adults who complicate our lives so much that we fail to find the time for wonder. Here is Jesus, the Son of God. It is his real presence, not some symbol or pointer on our road to Heaven. Jesus' words were unequivocal—This IS my Body...my Blood. And so, our questioning as Catholics seeks to understand more fully the "how" but never to doubt the reality that Christ is there. "We've never doubted" many of us might protest—but if ever we come forward to Holy Communion simply thinking "it's time for the bread and wine," or if we come forward distracted about what we were doing before we came to Mass or by what we are to do next (or whether we set the oven properly for lunch), then the mystery and the wonder have both passed us by.

Let us receive the Eucharist with deep reverence, and spend those few quiet moments after Communion in nothing but prayer to the God whose majesty is contained within us. And when, at the end of Mass, we are sent forth to live our Faith in fervour until next time we meet, let us embrace too the task ahead. The Mass may be ended—but our work as Christians for the week ahead is only just begun.

## PIETY SHOPS

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

## 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.

## RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP Monthly Collection

Next week: Day for Life

## 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.**

## 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

**Corpus Christi** Sat 6th June: Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) \*  
Sunday 7th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's  
**11.15am First Holy Communion Mass at Holy Cross**  
6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) \* **\* Livestreamed**  
**Monday 8th:** *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*  
**Tuesday 9th:** 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:  
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
**Wednesday 10th:** 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:  
10.00am Mass at Holy Cross \*  
**St Barnabas** **Thursday 11th:** 10.00am Mass at **St Mary's School**—outside if the weather permits—*All welcome*  
**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus** **Friday 12th:** 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament \*/Confessions followed by  
6.45pm Divine Mercy (sung) for the month of June and  
7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross \*  
**Saturday 13th:** 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) \*  
**11th Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Sunday 14th:** **9.30am First Holy Communion Mass at St Mary's**  
11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas)  
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

The weekly collection over the last two weeks totalled £1,268.29 and £1,140.35. The collection for ACN raised £800.52, and the final total from the Fr Bashobora fundraiser was £1,300—sincere thanks to you all. 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.



## MAY BAPTISMS

Please pray for Marley, Arlow, Penelope, Hailey, Kobe, Penelope, Prince, Oluwatomisin, Lachlan, Winnie, India and Vera.

## 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!

## 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 people of the parishes of SS Aidan and Oswald, Royton, and St Joseph, Shaw, and Fr Gavin Landers, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and the chaplaincies to the Royal Oldham Hospital and Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The monthly prize draw will take place on Sunday 7th June 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 has started. Can you please let Fran have your subscription—£26 for the year? If you would like to join please see Fran.
- The Parish summer fair is on Saturday 11th July in the community hall at St Mary's. Raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses. If you have items to donate please leave them at the back of church. If you are able to help on the day please let us know. 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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*Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey*