



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

15th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Book 3

WELCOMING THE WORD

God's Word, from the very first beginnings of the Bible, is something powerful and tangible. God speaks, and what he says comes to be. The whole of creation is illustrated by the speaking of the Word. The prophets of old recognised this power of the Word in their writings and so, in today's first Reading, we hear that the Word will not go around aimlessly. It will achieve all that it has been sent to do. If God's people are open to it, the power of God's Word can be a great strength in the challenges they face—all things can, in truth, be turned to good.

In the New Testament, the evangelist John tells us that "the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us" (Jn 1:14). In Jesus, we see the Word continue in its powerful action. How many times we hear Jesus speak, and devils are cast out, the lame are healed, the dumb speak and the deaf hear again. Then even, at another word, the dead are raised to life!

Yet there is also a kind of word spoken by Jesus that waits upon the human response, and it is such a word that he describes in today's Gospel. The seed sown by the sower represents a word which does not force itself upon us but rather invites us to respond. As Jesus goes on to explain his parable to the disciples, we recognise descriptions of real life, as identifiable today as they were so many years ago. How important to us is the word that we hear? Will it be ignored through a lack of willingness to understand that God's way is best? Will it be short-lived, because we expect it to make our lives perfect and we cannot understand why trials still come along? Will it fade away, because there are so many distractions around us and we just *have* to try out every single one? Or will it take root and then, even through our human weakness, find the power to bear fruit a hundredfold?

Only we, individually, can answer these questions for ourselves—but let's remember, what we discover is not final. Seeds take time to grow, and similarly the seed of God's Word will also take time to come to fruition in us. We

might see in our own hearts some of the failings illustrated by the edge of the path, or the rocky places or the thorns, but there is always time for us to change. So long as the resolve is there in our hearts, it may take a lifetime but the seed will grow and, like the Word in Isaiah, it will succeed in everything it has been sent to do.

So let us challenge ourselves anew and invite that seed of God's Word to take root in our hearts and in the hearts of our children and grandchildren. May we be more and more true to the call of the Christian Faith, and may *they* grow in Faith and become everything God made them to be. One thing is certain—the Word growing within us will make us happy in a way that the distractions of the modern world never can.

SEA SUNDAY

We rely so much—at times unknowingly—on the work of seafarers in so many things we take for granted, yet many of these lead difficult lives, often facing injustice and real suffering in their daily work. It is hard to imagine what those trapped in the Strait of Hormuz have felt in recent months, yet the plight of most seafarers never reaches our news screens. Today we hold them all in prayer, and the retiring collection for Stella Maris goes to provide much needed relief and support.

CALLING EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS!

A final call for ministers willing to serve at Salford Royal Hospital. **Please could we request that all volunteers email the parish office, with their consent that their email address can be shared with the Chaplaincy at the hospital so that the lead chaplain can contact you to arrange the necessary training?** Thank you for your generosity in volunteering and for your co-operation with the means of making this happen.

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for the MONTH of JULY

"For respect for human life." Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Are you a doctor, nurse, student, or allied professional? If you are a Catholic in healthcare, you are invited to join the Catholic Medical Association and grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together. For more information & upcoming events, visit: <https://catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk>

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- This month's winners of the Monthly Prize Draw are:

£ 100	165	Anne S
£ 30	245	Robert C
£ 20	188	Sarah Y

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.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:

The sick: Doreen, Bethan, Adam, Eamonn, Jackie, Julie Ann, Josie, Bernard, William, Marion, Michael, Vincent, Colleen, Peter, Geoff, Margaret, Pat, Bernard, Danny, Pauline, Joanne, Michael, Nattalie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Latently Dead: Barbara Smith (née Adams), Bridget ("Breda") Doyle, Grace Noblett, Bro Tom Quinn MHM, Kathleen McCormick, Lucyna Sumińska, Karen Anne Dunn.

Anniversaries: Sheila Carlos, Terry Smith (96th Birthday Anniv), Brian Slater, Séan Fanning (Birthday Anniv), Barbara Hampton (54th Wedding Anniv), Maureen Yellop (Birthday Anniv), John and Nora Tighe, Pauline Cuomo, Julie Burgess (1st Anniv).

Remembrance: Mary and Terry Smith (67th Wedding Anniv), Jessie Collins, James Yellop, Michael and Mary Lambert, Nora and William Yellop, John Payne, Josephine Doherty, James Carson, George Devlin.

We also pray: for Pope Leo, for those affected by the Venezuelan Earthquakes, for the Jewish Community, for the people of Iran, Lebanon and all the Middle East, 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.

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

St Benedict Sat 11th July: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 12th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Joel)
 6.30pm Evening Mass, back at St Mary's
 Monday 13th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
 Tuesday 14th: 2.00pm Y6 Leavers' Mass at **St Mary's Church**—All welcome
 2.00pm Pro-Life Rosary at St Gilbert's Presbytery—All welcome
 8.00pm Prayer Reflection and Social—Celebrating Volunteer Ministry
St Bonaventure Wed 15th: 1.30pm Y6 Leavers' Mass at **St Gilbert's School**—All welcome
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Thursday 16th: 10.00am End of Year Mass at **Holy Cross & All Saints' School**—All welcome
 Friday 17th: 6.00pm Deanery Holy Hour for Peace */ Confessions followed by
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all 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
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 19th: 6.00pm **Junior Reception Mass** at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 Afternoon Mass (time tbc) at Holy Cross for the Hong Kong Chinese
 Community with Fr Bruno Lepeu
 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 £1,300.73. The retiring collection raised £437.46 for CAFOD's Venezuela Earthquakes Appeal. 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.



RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: Stella Maris (formerly the Apostleship of the Sea)
 Next week: SVP Collection for the month of July

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 parish of Our Lady of Dolours, Kersal, and for Father Vincent Coyne, OSM, their parish priest, and for the Servite Friars. We pray for their parish primary school and St Monica's High School, together with the Sisters of Nazareth and the Faithful Companions of Jesus.

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](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