



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

16th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 4

WEEDS AMONG THE WHEAT

Imagine a perfect world, where everyone is at peace, all are treated with equity and justice, there is no poverty, no death, hunger or disease, no suffering of any kind, no monotony, no boredom—and God is all in all, the almighty provider of every good thing. There are no more terrorist bombers, no crime, no fear on the streets. It is a heavenly vision, and a reality which we all hope to attain in the world to come—but what if it were now? How would we face such a world today?

Unlike the John Lennon song, the key to it all is the presence of God, who alone has the power to make it happen. But if we are to be anything more than mere automatons, puppets conditioned to act in one way only, then our hearts must first be filled with an absolute certainty of the closeness of that God—any doubts, any questions, and we may become the ones to make it all fall apart. If we do not fully believe that God will provide, there is always the danger that one of us will start the fight to get our share first, just to be sure.

Yet, in this life, so great a part of our quest is the very discovery of God. If we do not discover Him in a way that is entirely human, then our free-will is false, and the perfection we desire is flawed.

And so, for the time being, there are “weeds” growing in the midst of the world's good wheat. Old soldiers will continue to remember fondly the comradeship of war, and each of us will have the chance to grow closer to God as our humanity is strengthened by our facing and challenging hardship and injustice together. War will never be good, nor will terrorism or any other form of catastrophe. But as we behold the godless, we learn to treasure the love of God in our midst. As we feel uncertain, we remember Christ's own uncertainty on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And for now, we wait patiently for heaven, in God's good time.

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>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kind 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, Natallie, Edna, Veronica, Sheila, Stephen, Juliana, Wieslaw.

Lately Dead: Marie Garside CBE (former headteacher of St Ambrose Barlow RC High School), Terence (“Tex”) Ferguson, Kathleen McCormick, Barbara Smith (née Adams), Bridget (“Breda”) Doyle, Grace Noblett, Bro Tom Quinn MHM, Kathleen McCormick.

Anniversaries: Sheila Carlos, Terry Smith (96th Birthday Anniv), Brian Slater, Séan Fanning (Birthday Anniv), Barbara Hampton (54th Wedding Anniv), Maureen Yellop (Birthday 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.

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.

NEWS FROM St PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

We wish all parishioners a wonderful summer and look forward to sharing our updates with you again when we return to school in September! Please find our news from this half term below.

- With great thanks to all members of the clergy who support us, pupils and staff have been able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in school.
- Year 9 and 10 have celebrated their First Friday Masses. Thank you to Fr Martin for leading us in the celebration of the Eucharist, and to all parents/carers and parishioners who joined us.
- Year 11 celebrated a very moving Leavers' Mass, where we remembered their 5-year journeys of formation and education at St Patrick's, and looked forward to the bright futures ahead of them. We are incredibly proud of this Year 11 cohort for the hard work they have done and, most importantly, the incredible young adults they have become.
- Year 10 have led us in prayer every Wednesday, writing the bidding prayers and choosing the music for their Celebrations of the Word.
- Pupils and staff have attended Sunday Mass at Holy Cross, St Mary's, St Teresa's and St Joseph the Worker RC Churches. We have participated through ministries during Mass, and served refreshments afterwards. Thank you to our parish communities for making us feel so welcome! We look forward to seeing you all again in the Autumn term.
- We have created a new prayer garden at school with the help of Year 10 pupils. We were lucky enough to have Bishop John visit us and bless the garden and lead us in our very first prayer.

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. *(This went out as a “final call” last week, but of the many who have expressed an interest, only two have emailed so far!)*

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.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE—PARISH SUMMER FAIR

- Thank you to all those who helped to make the fair a success—those who donated items, those who bought raffle tickets, those who set up the hall, ran the stalls and supported the event on the day. The current amount raised, £1,981.91, goes to parish funds.

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sat 18th July: 6.00pm **Junior Reception Mass** at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 Sunday 19th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto) * Livestreamed
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 2.30pm Cantonese Mass at Holy Cross with Fr Bruno Lepeu
 6.30pm Evening Mass, at St Mary's
 Monday 20th: *No Mass in the parish on Mondays*
 Tuesday 21st: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
St Mary Magdalene Wed 22nd: 11.30am Funeral Mass at Holy Cross for Breda Doyle—*May she rest in peace*
St Bridget of Sweden Thursday 23rd: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
 Friday 24th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by
 6.40pm Chaplet of the Precious Blood for the month of July and
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
St James Saturday 25th: 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) *
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 26th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

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 £866.19. The retiring collection raised £441.83 for Stella Maris (with some still to come in). 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: SVP Collection for the month of July
 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 parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Langley, Middleton and for Canon Tadgh Mullins, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and Cardinal Langley High School as well as for Sr Anna and the Daughters of Divine Charity.

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

SRCDT Registered Charity No 250037
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Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey