



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

23rd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 3

CONFRONTING OUR OPPONENTS

The message of today's Gospel is not an easy one. The setting is the real world of human relationships—St Matthew is addressing the people of the early Church as they find themselves arguing and getting into all sorts of disputes with one another, and he uses a particular teaching of Jesus to make his point. But then, as now, common practice was a very different story. As Christians, we need to think carefully about where we stand. We must guard against challenging our opponents in a way that belittles them to our advantage, and seek instead to correct and to guide, with a view to lifting them closer to God.

The first part of Jesus's message makes simple sense. It is right that we should challenge someone who hurts or offends us or someone dear to us. Challenging is not about refusing to forgive, but it will often be an essential part of that forgiveness. If we do not challenge, our feelings of anger may grow into bitterness, and ultimately our love will die. And if we truly believe that the love within us is the presence of God, then this prospect should not bear thinking about.

But how do we challenge? Society says we seek compensation for ourselves. We pursue the public condemnation of our opponent, and presume we will then feel better with money in our pockets. We even imagine this to be right when our opponent meant no harm—a simple accident or mistake which we might so easily have made ourselves. But God's way is different.

Our real aim should be for reconciliation—the triumph of love over bitterness. We challenge, so that the hurt may be healed, in both of us. We do not seek public humiliation, even if our first challenge fails. Then, according to the Gospel, we should involve two or three others, still trying to make mutual peace. Only if this too fails, does the wider community become involved—and this, to help our opponent see the error of their ways, and be changed for the better.

So where do we stand? Whose name brings feelings of anger or bitterness to the depths of our being? Who can we not wish well from our hearts? Let us bring it all to God, in prayer.

NOTE FROM OUR SVP

The SVP are always willing to visit or phone anyone who feels they need to talk. Anyone requiring this or who knows someone they could help, please call the parish office and we will arrange an initial discussion.

NAMES ON OUR SICK LIST

As indicated over the summer, a number of names have now been removed from our prayers for the sick because we do not know their current situation. If any should be returned to the list, please accept our apologies and let us know via the parish newsletter email address (opposite).

SEPTEMBER—SEASON OF CREATION

*God of all creation,
open my eyes to the beauty of the world around me
and the sacred breath of life within every
living thing. You have entrusted this earth to my care.
Forgive me for the ways I have taken its gifts for granted
or forgotten that creation belongs first to You.
Teach me to live more gently,
to consume more thoughtfully,
and to protect and defend what I have been given.
During this month of September,
help me to recognize Christ in those who are poor,
and be his hands, always ready to serve.
Show me the small, practical acts of love
You are asking of me today.
Lord, let this be a time of change within me. Amen.*

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for this month

"For the care of water." Pope Leo XIV invites everyone to pray for the care of water during September, as Christians celebrate the Season of Creation.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The monthly prize draw will take place this Sunday after the 11.15 Mass at Holy Cross. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- A "Super 50:50" will start next week. There will be 100 tickets available at a cost of £5 with a guaranteed prize of £250. Tickets will be available after all Masses from 12th September.

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: Clare, Tayo, Teresa, Kathleen, John, Monica, Robert, Doreen, Adam, Jackie, Julie Ann, Josie, Pauline, Natallie, Edna, Sheila, Juliana.

Latently Dead: John Collins, James Mulgrew ("Jimmy Cricket"), Ryan Fellows, Canon Mortimer Stanley, Brenda Evans.

Anniversaries: Pat Nicholson, Mary Jane Doherty, Lucy Kennedy, Thomas Yates, Mary Smith, Martin Platt, Sheila Hazeldine, Pauline Yates, Florence Yates, Veronica Grimshaw (Birthday Anniv), Gerard Nicholls (Birthday Anniv), Annie Whittaker, Julie Burgess (65th Birthday Anniv), Aliason Dapato.

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

We also pray: for Darren and Monica (recently married), Sr Anne FMSJ (Diamond Jubilee), for Pope Leo, for those affected by the recent earthquakes and floods, 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 parish website for further information

Calendar for This Week

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sat 5th Sept:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
	Sunday 6th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
	Monday 7th:	<i>No Mass in the parish on Mondays</i>
Birthday of Our Blessed Lady	Tues 8th:	2.00pm Monthly Prayer Group in St Mary's Sacristy—All welcome 10.00am Beginning of Year Mass at St Mary's (Church)—All welcome 2.00pm Pro-Life Rosary at St Gilbert's Presbytery—All welcome
	Wed 9th:	10.00am Beginning of Year Mass at St Gilbert's School—All welcome
St Ambrose Barlow	Thursday 10th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross with Y6 from Holy Cross and All Saints' School *
	Friday 11th:	9.00am St Patrick's Y7 Welcome Mass at Holy Cross—All welcome 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by 6.45pm Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary * and 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
	Sat 12th:	11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available) followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 13th:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross * 9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Nicholas) 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 £1070.14.
 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.



RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: SVP monthly collection
 Next week: Emergency appeal for Nepal Floods via CAFOD

BAPTISMS

Please pray for Kaea, Khaire, Reggie, William, Michal, Ronnie, Margot, Francesca and Monae Blu, baptised in the parish recently.

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 Pope St John XXIII and for Father Robert Lasia, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools, for the chaplaincies to the Rochdale Infirmary and Buckley Hall Prison.

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
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