



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

25th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 1

GOD'S STRANGE JUSTICE

It's the taking part that counts! So we tell the school team when it doesn't win the trophy, or the competitor who never basks in the limelight of the podium. But the world and our celebrity culture seem to tell us otherwise. "Public impression" is clear about how we should judge achievement. Life is a race, and those who come in first get the best prize. The also-rans can plod through life with enough for what they need, whilst the late-comers don't deserve a proper living at all. It doesn't matter if they are idle or ill, lazy or disabled—if they don't do their bit, then they cannot expect to be up with the front runners. They do not deserve life's luxuries—though we might magnanimously offer them charity, whether they want it or not. But why should the talented footballer who got all the best breaks deserve the fastest cars and heated swimming pools, whilst the shy individual, born with a slight disfigurement and perhaps bullied at school, who never realises their full potential or feels any self-worth, deserves no more than a daily struggle to make ends meet?

Competition can be a wonderful thing, when in all its varieties different people shine in different disciplines, and individuals can feel motivated to achieve more than they ever believed possible. But when instead it is used to mark out life's losers, to define one person as better than another, worth more or less, then our competition flies in the face of Christianity. After all, we are each created in the image and likeness of God and everything we have and are is God's free gift.

This is the strange justice of Jesus in today's Gospel. The front runners get a day's wage for a day's work in the vineyard. Just enough for everything they need. And those who were slower off the mark? A day's wage. And what about the disabled, the marginalised, those trying to rise from the gutter of life? Symbolised by those workers who only arrived at the eleventh hour—a day's wage. Our popular view of justice sees the landowner's methods as unfair, but God's ways are different. He sees people in a different light. How, then, do we see each other?

WELCOME HOLY CROSS and ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL!

At Sunday's 11.15am Mass we welcome children from Holy Cross and All Saints' School, recognising the important place all our schools have in this parish of St John Paul II. Welcome Masses will follow for our other Primary Schools in the next few weeks.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Thank you to all those who came to the meetings last week, launching our new First Holy Communion and Junior Reception programmes. The RCIA (Adult Reception) Group also begins this weekend in preparation for reception into the Church at Eastertime—if you (or someone you know) would like to take part in this (without obligation), please contact us as soon as possible so that you can be included. Confirmation application forms are also now available.

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.

YOM KIPPUR

This weekend we pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters as they celebrate Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- Tickets for the "super 50:50" are available after all Masses. Tickets are £5 with a guaranteed prize of £250. There are only 50 more tickets available before the winner is drawn.
- A date for your diary! The parish Christmas fair will be held on Saturday, 12th December.

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.*

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: Michael, Margaret, Colleen, Tayo, Teresa, Kathleen, John, Monica, Robert, Doreen, Adam, Jackie, Julie Ann, Pauline, Natallie, Edna, Sheila, Juliana.

Lately Dead: Kathrryn McCloud, John Holroyd, Josie Muggleton, Pat Nicholson, Marty Hickey, Clare Callaghan.

Anniversaries: Frederick ("Eric") Bailey, Margaret Maher, Norman Helps, Jean Holmes, Richard Jackson, Rose Hosey, George Sewell (Birthday Anniv), Mary Jane Doherty, Lucy Kennedy, Thomas Yates, Mary Smith, Martin Platt.

Remembrance: Bernard and John Payne, Josephine Doherty, James Carson.

We also pray: for Pope Leo, for those affected by the recent earthquakes and floods, for the Jewish Community celebrating Yom Kippur, 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

* Livestreamed

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sat 19th Sept: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
 Sunday 20th: 9.30am Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross with Welcome for Holy Cross and All Saints' schoolchildren
 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
St Matthew, Apostle Monday 21st: No Mass in the parish on Mondays
 Tuesday 22nd: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
St Pius of Pietrelcina Wednesday 23rd: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
Our Lady of Walsingham Thursday 24th: 9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by:
 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross with schools "GIFT" Team commissioning *
 1.30pm Funeral Mass at St Mary's for John Holroyd—May he rest in peace
 Friday 25th: 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by
 6.40pm Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary * and
 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
 Saturday 26th: 11.00am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available)
 followed by 12 noon Benediction and Mass, all at St Mary's
 Sunday 27th: 6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (with Fr Stanto) *
 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross with Welcome for Holy Cross and All Saints' schoolchildren
 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

Thank you for last week's collection of £1,106.98. The retiring collection for CAFOD's Nepal Earthquake appeal raised £510.00. 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: No retiring collection this week
 Next week: Retired Clergy Fund—please help support the retired priests of the diocese who still offer so much.

RED MISSION BOXES

If you have a Red Mission Box, please could you bring it in to either church so that money can be counted and sent to the APF? Please ensure your contact details are on the box so that it can be returned to you. Thank you for all your support to this Papal charity.

CYCLE OF PRAYER



This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish St Michael and St Bernadette, Whitefield and for Canon Steven Parkinson, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary schools and for Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Evron.

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.

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