



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

26th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time
Daily
Prayer
Week 2

HE TAUGHT THEM in PARABLES...

What makes a story true? Does it have to report events which actually happened, or can truth mean something else? In Jesus' parables, we see him choose a method of teaching based apparently upon pure fiction, and yet the truths these parables represent are central to our Christian Faith. So what is going on?

A common feature in all of the parables is the way in which they are grounded in the real-life experiences of their first hearers. Stories of parties, of journeys, of farmyards, of street muggings, of neighbours, of employers... The list goes on and on. And in today's Gospel too, the story of two sons asked to carry out a task—one says "no" and later thinks better of it, the other graciously agrees but never gets around to it—we see a story that is so realistic to our own experiences. And this is perhaps the greatest truth of the parables. They are not about actual events, but they do represent ordinary everyday life. In a sense, they are about us. And it is in this ordinary, mundane experience, that we will find the presence of God. We do not need extraordinary events, artificial environments or charismatic leaders to enable us to find God in the world. He is here in this world of employment, partying, journeying... In everything we do, there God stands, waiting to be found.

The parables also carry a powerful meaning for their hearers, and a powerful challenge. Today's story is aimed at the hypocrisy of the respected leaders of the people, citing the sincerity of sinners who have shown great conversion upon hearing the words of John the Baptist. And it is aimed at us, too, when our high Christian morals and ideals are not found as deeply in our hearts as they are in our outward show, when we would profess to expect of another what we fail, in truth, to achieve in ourselves.

Again, we find Our Lord inviting us to question our motives, to deepen our sincerity and to hold back from judging others. Let us take up that challenge and grow, with his help, into better Christians.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY on FRIDAY

CAFOD envelopes are available after Mass and can be returned with your collection over the next three weeks.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Thank you to all who have completed the registration process for the various Sacramental Programmes which have now begun. If you have missed the registration deadlines, **please ensure you complete the appropriate forms this week** or it may not be possible for you or your child to proceed with the programme this year. The Confirmation Programme will be launching shortly—please either collect a form from church or download it from the parish website.

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

- There are just five tickets left for the "super 50:50". Tickets cost £5 and there is a guaranteed prize of £250. The winning ticket will be drawn when all the tickets are sold.
- The next monthly prize draw will take place after the 9.30 Mass at St Mary's on Sunday, 4th October. Members are reminded that their subscription must be up to date to be eligible for a prize.
- The parish Christmas fair will be held on Saturday 12th December. More details to follow!

SICK and RETIRED CLERGY APPEAL

Our diocesan Sick and Retired Clergy Fund ensures our retired priests can begin the next chapter of their vocation with confidence, knowing the Church they have served will continue to accompany them as they age. Every gift to the fund helps to provide the care, dignity and practical support our priests deserve after years of dedicated service. Please remember our retired clergy in your prayers and if you can, make a gift to the appeal today. (Scan the QR code to go to the donation page.)



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

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

Anniversaries: Ena Lea (Birthday Anniv), Eddy and Pat Hosey, Annie Smith, 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 the sick and retired priests of the diocese, 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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sat 26th Sept:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday) *
	Sunday 27th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)
St Michael & Archangels	Monday 28th:	No Mass in the parish on Mondays
	Tues 29th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
St Jerome	Wed 30th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
St Thérèse of Lisieux	Thursday 1st Oct:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross with Y5/6 from Holy Cross & All Saints' School *
FAMILY FAST DAY	Friday 2nd:	9.00am Mass at St Patrick's RC High School with Y8—All welcome 6.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament */Confessions followed by 6.30pm Rosary for the month of October * and 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, all at Holy Cross *
Holy Guardian Angels	Sat 3rd:	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) *
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday 4th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's with Welcome for St Mary's schoolchildren 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's (with Fr Stanto)

* 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 £1085.99. 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: Sick and Retired Clergy Fund
 Next week: Monthly collection for the work of our SVP Group

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 parishes of Christ the Redeemer, Bolton and St Vincent de Paul, Over Hulton, for Fr Samson Ojekunle, OMD, and for their parish primary schools.

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/ParishofStJohnPaulIIeccles/

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