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

+ Christ the King
Daily Prayer Week 2

YOUTH SUNDAY

The great King sits on his judgement seat, and one by one he arranges his subjects, some to his right and some to his left. "Come, you whom my Father has blessed" he says to those on his right. But alas for those who find themselves excluded from this group of the "blessed," those placed on his left. For them the eternal fire, cast from his presence forever.

This is the Gospel passage chosen for today's feast of Christ our Universal King, and with it we celebrate Youth Sunday and give thanks for all our young people, inviting them to find joy in the Good News of Jesus Christ. But can they rejoice when they hear of judgment? Can this inspire them (or us) to look forward with eager expectation to the ultimate coming of God's Kingdom?

Fear of judgment can be a paralysing thing. We know we are unworthy of God's grace, we know that time after time our attempts at offering real, altruistic service to others, are doomed to fail out of our human weakness and selfishness. How could we ever deserve a place at Christ's right hand?

One of Britain's earliest claims to fame in Christendom was the teaching of the 5th century heretic, Pelagius. He refused to acknowledge the way God's Grace leads us onwards and upwards to heights we cannot achieve on our own—rather, he taught that it is by our own efforts and our own achievements that we attain salvation, with just the example of Christ to guide us on our way. Perhaps so many centuries on, his teaching is still in our bones—but it is still heresy. We are saved not by achieving greatness, (which pursuit is doomed to failure in most of us), but by the Cross of Christ. We need nothing more than to believe in that Cross, and to accept the healing grace he offers us from there.

No-one in the Gospel story is praised for great achievement, or punished for failure. No one is saved by great heroism or condemned out of fear. Judgement is by simple things—acts that are within the ability of everyone. "If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones..." (Mt.10:42).

Our call to receive God's free gift of salvation could not be simpler. We must accept the love he brings, we must accept the deep truth that, whatever evils exist in our world, Christ is here in our midst with healing to share. And where do we find him? In grand churches? In great religious leaders? Maybe, but moreover in the faces of the poor and the needy who surround us—in those who call upon us simply to care. And if we accept his love, could we then fail to offer some small kindness in return?

The image of judgment is not given to lead us into fear. Rather it calls us to love and to receive love. It is the truly hard of heart who need fear a place at the left hand of Christ the King. But for them too, here and now, is the call to be changed, to be healed by the Cross of him who reigns, and to learn from his love.

*** QUIZ NIGHT! ***

We will be holding a parish fundraising Quiz Night at Holy Cross Community Hall **TOMORROW** (Monday 23rd November) at 7.00pm. The quiz is aimed towards an adult audience, but if you need to bring any children with you there will be one round where they *might* know some answers better than you! Admission £2 per head. Please come along as a team (of up to 6 people) or make up a team with others when you arrive. There will be a raffle, and refreshments will be available on the night. The Quizmaster will be David Collins, Fr Martin's brother.

CARITAS ADVENT APPEAL

The statistics we hear about poverty and homelessness can sometimes feel overwhelming—but their story is not inevitable. This World Day of the Poor gives an ideal opportunity to advertise the work of Caritas, Diocese of Salford, and to commend to you their Advent Appeal booklets, available at the back of church. Every donation you give in support of Caritas helps to lift someone out of the poverty trap.

PARISH FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

A brochure is available for each family to take away from Mass today,, detailing our current financial position and what we can do to improve the situation. Please read through it—if we wish the parish still to be here for future generations, it is important that we act now. Thank you for all the support you give to your parish.

ADVENT TALKS 2026

Exploring human dignity with Pope Leo in the age of AI. A series of talks at Lancashire Martyrs, Little Hulton, with Mgr Paul Smith and Sr Joan Kerley FMSJ, 10.00am-12.30pm on Tuesdays, beginning Tuesday 24th November. See poster at the back of church.

PIETY SHOPS NOW STOCKED FOR CHRISTMAS

Please check out our piety shops, which are now stocked with Christmas cards and other Christmas goods.

POPE LEO'S INTENTION for this month

"For the proper use of wealth." Pope Leo XIV dedicates his November prayer intention to praying that people may not succumb to the temptation of selfishness, and that wealth may always be put at the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less.

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**.

RETIRING COLLECTIONS

This week: No retiring collection this week.
Next week: Catholic Youth Service

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people kindly in your prayers:
The sick: Sandra, Pat, Kevin, David, Hugh, Veronica, Marlou, Philip, Sarah, Janet, Dave, Michael, Margaret, Colleen, Tayo, Kathleen, John, Monica, Robert, Doreen, Adam, Jackie, Julie Ann, Pauline, Natallie, Edna, Sheila, Juliana.
Lately Dead: John Fishwick, Thresiamma Abraham, Maria Teresa "Maite" Pardo, Mary Maguire, Tommy Chinnery, Sr Margaret Bernadette Tutti FMSJ, Marie Conlan.
Anniversaries: Terry Smith, Sonny Shannon, Patricia Timmins (née Mallinson, Birthday Anniv), Sheila Devlin (Friday's Mass), Lucy Kennedy (Birthday Anniv), Paula McLernon-Wilson, John Ward, Barbara Hampton, Mary Gribbin, Sheila Devlin (Birthday Anniv), Sarah Corcoran, Sunimal, Ulitha, Colin, Matty, Eileen, Ada Serapiglia, Henry Costello.
Remembrance: Mary Ferm.
We also pray: for the poor of our world, for Pope Leo, 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

Presentation of our Blessed Lady	Sat 21st Nov:	6.00pm Mass at Holy Cross (Vigil Mass for Sunday with Fr Stanto) *
Christ the King	Sunday 22nd:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 11.15am Mass at Holy Cross 6.30pm Evening Mass at St Mary's
	Monday 23rd:	*No Mass in the parish on Mondays* 11.00am Interment of ashes at Wardley Cemetery, for Jessie Collins 7.00pm Quiz Night at Holy Cross Community Hall—*See separate entry*
Ss Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	Tues 24th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Wed 25th:	9.45am Rosary for world peace, followed by: 10.00am Mass at Holy Cross *
	Thursday 26th:	10.00am Mass at St Mary's School with Y1,3&5—*All welcome*
	Friday 27th:	6.00pm Quiet Prayer * *(with Confessions available) followed by* 6.40pm "Beads of the Dead" Chaplet for November * *and* 7.00pm Benediction and Mass, at Holy Cross *
	Sat 28th:	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) *
First Sunday of Advent	Sunday 29th:	9.30am Mass at St Mary's 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 £922.73. 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.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

- The parish Christmas fair is on Saturday 12th December at 12.30 in St Mary's hall. Raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses. Donations can be left at the back of church. If you are able to help on the day can you please let Fran know?
- The Christmas lunch at The Clubhouse, Barton airport is on Wednesday 16th December at 12.00. The cost is £23. Can you please let Fran have your payment by the end of November?

CYCLE of PRAYER

HOPE

This week throughout the diocese we pray for the parish of the Holy Family, Denton and Reddish, and for Fr Peter Hapgood-Strickland, their parish priest.

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
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