



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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Parish web page:  
[www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk](http://www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk)

Diocesan web page:  
[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT 10 MARCH 2019

### HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 &amp; 11.00 am</b>	
MONDAY	9.15 am	(Prayer Group usual time and place this evening)
TUESDAY	12 noon	Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	
THURSDAY	12 noon	
FRIDAY	<b>8.00 am</b>	
SATURDAY	11.00 am	(Novena 10.40)

### CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 11.30 am -12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 11.30 am to 12.30 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER St John's, Rochdale, & St Gabriel's, Castleton

Collection last Sunday £1022.19. Thanks to your generosity in the **Starving World box** in February we are able to send £499.26 to Cornerstone. The March contents will go to CAFOD.

## NEWSLETTER

### Parish

#### Dementia Care

Our new project got off to a fantastic start last Thursday. All present were full of enthusiasm and wanted to continue meeting. For the rest of this month we will meet in the parish Hall from **11.00 am until 12.30 pm** starting from **next Thursday 14 March**. We will describe our venture as 'a singing group for both carers and cared for loved ones with memory problems or those

feeling lonely and isolated'. Come and join us if you meet that description, and tell others about it.

#### Traidcraft

*Our next sale of Fairtrade goods is **today Sunday 10 March** in the Parish Hall after both the morning Masses. As well as all the usual foods and cleaning materials, we will be taking orders for the Real Easter Egg, the only chocolate egg that tells the story of Easter, for collection on 7April.*

Refreshments are served in the parish Hall after both Sunday morning Masses. Do call in for a cuppa and chat.

#### Parish Group?

In case you missed last weeks' notice here it is again: In his Pastoral Letter for Lent **Bishop Arnold** wrote: *I would like to challenge every parish in this Diocese to form a group concerned with giving advice and making practical responses [to the global warning or environmental problem].*

How best will we respond to his challenge? Your thoughts and suggestions are very welcome.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day**

*Drought, floods and storms are having a devastating impact on our global family. Like Mahinur from Bangladesh. She makes a living from fishing, but a drought last year killed all the fish, and she's struggling to support her disabled husband and son. **Next Friday 15 March**, can you eat a simple meal in solidarity and give what you save to help people like Mahinur? Please use the envelope attached to this newsletter to make your donation in the offertory collection from next weekend on. Through CAFOD's global Church network, your support can reach the ends of the earth.*

### **Friday Lenten Masses**

We got off to a good start last Friday. **Friday Mass continues during Lent at 8.00 am.** A very worthwhile exercise for those able to come.

### **HCPT Fair**

*Come and join us for a bite to eat **next Saturday 16 March** in the parish hall. The H.C.P.T. Fair will open at 10.30 am with many stalls selling a variety of goods. All proceeds will help to send sick children to Lourdes at Easter and also help with the fares of young helpers from the parish travelling with the diocesan pilgrimage.*

### **Deanery/Diocese**

#### **Rite of Election**

This afternoon at 2.30 pm in Salford Cathedral **Bishop**

**John Arnold** will welcome converts from throughout the diocese who are preparing to be received as full members of the Catholic Church. They include **Christopher** and **Jonathan** from this parish who have been following our 'Discover the Catholic Faith' course since last September. Our prayers and good wishes go with them this afternoon as they are enrolled among 'those Elected'. The ceremony (not a Mass) is of course open to all who wish to attend but it is advisable to go early.

### **St Patrick's Day**

*St Patrick's day this year falls on a Sunday of Lent – next Sunday. A Sunday of Lent takes precedence over a feast of a saint – even St Patrick! Mass will therefore be Mass of the Sunday. We will have to remember St Patrick in our own ways.*

### **Lent is Here Now**

"[Lent] is a wake-up call for the soul. This wake-up call is accompanied by the message that the Lord proclaims through the lips of the prophet, a short and heartfelt message: 'Return to me' (Joel 2:12).

"To return. If we have to return, it means that we have wandered off ... Lent is the time to rediscover the direction of life. Because in life's journey, as in every journey, what really matters is not to lose sight of the goal.

"If what interests us as we travel, however, is looking at the scenery or stopping to eat, we will not get far ... We should ask ourselves: On the journey of life, do I seek the way forward? Or am I satisfied with living in the moment and thinking only of

feeling good, solving some problems and having fun?

"What is the path? Is it the search for health, which many today say comes first but which eventually passes? Could it be possessions and wellbeing? But we are not in the world for this.

"Return to me, says the Lord. To me. The Lord is the goal of our journey in this world. The direction must lead to Him ... "

Pope Francis then cited the Gospel, pointing to three steps for the faithful to undertake during Lent "without hypocrisy and pretense: *almsgiving, prayer, fasting.*"

"Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting bring us back to the three realities that do not fade away. *Prayer* reunites us to God; *charity*, to our neighbour; *fasting*, to ourselves. God, my neighbour, my life: these are the realities that do not fade away and in which we must invest.

"Lent, therefore, invites us to focus first of all on the Almighty, in *prayer*, which frees us from that horizontal and mundane life where we find time for self but forget God. It then invites us to focus on others, with the *charity* that frees us from the vanity of acquiring and of thinking that things are only good if they are good for me. Finally, Lent invites us to look inside our heart, with *fasting*, which frees us from attachment to things and from the worldliness that numbs the heart. *Prayer, charity, fasting*: three investments for a treasure that endures."

Pope Francis,  
Ash Wednesday 2019