



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

Phone/Fax: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:
www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk

Diocesan web page:
www.salforddiocese.net

15th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 16 JULY 2017

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	9.15 am	
TUESDAY	12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	(St John Plessington)
THURSDAY	12 noon	(St Apollinaris)
FRIDAY	9.15 am	(St Lawrence of Brindisi)
SATURDAY	No Liturgies this morning. Ordinations – see over	

CONFESSIONS this week

SATURDAY 6.00-6.45 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Our Lady & St Paul's, and St Joseph's, Heywood

Collection last Sunday £1285.97, of which £286 has been sent to the Apostleship of the Sea.

Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for the parish St Vincent de Paul Society.

Thanks to your generosity in the **Starving World box in June** we are able to send £533.39 to Aid to the Church in Need. The contents of the box in July will go to the Society of St Peter, Apostle, for the training of native priests in mission lands, as we remember that many people are hungry for the Word of God.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Our Lady of Grace Primary School

Diocesan inspectors visited our primary school on 29 June last to carry out an inspection in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. Their report came during the last few days. It makes for most pleasant reading.

The inspectors look at seven categories, namely:

- the overall effectiveness of the school;
- the quality of Catholic Leadership;
- the quality of Word;
- the quality of Welcome;
- the quality of Welfare;
- the quality of Worship;
- the quality of Witness.

The inspectors found that in all seven categories the school is **outstanding** – the highest award possible.

Our warmest congratulations go to all those responsible who work so hard for the benefit of our children. The Report can be found on the school website under 'Religious Education': www.ourladyofgracercprimaryschool.co.uk

Children, parents, school staff and governors, the parish community: all come in for special praise. What a tonic to receive at the end of the school year! We wish all concerned a very good, hard-earned holiday.

Deanery/Diocese

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Today, 16 July, is the feast day of our principal diocesan patron, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. However, the Sunday celebration takes precedence so the Mass today is of the Sunday. We will commemorate Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Bidding Prayers.

Diocesan Ordinations next Saturday

*Next Saturday, 22 July, at 12 noon, in St John's Cathedral, Salford, Deacons **Mark Paver and Gavin Landers** will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood for service in the Salford Diocese. There is a general invitation to be present.*

*Because of the ordinations **please note that there will be no morning Mass, Confessions or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday.***

We rejoice that two new priests will be ordained for the diocese and we offer them both our prayerful good wishes.

Saint of this Week: St John Plessington

The following account is taken from the Shrewsbury diocesan website. Shrewsbury diocese claims St John Plessington as one of their own since he spent much of his priestly life ministering to the faithful in that area but Lancashire has also a strong claim to him since he was born in the county and is related to the Plessington family of

Plessington near Blackburn in our diocese. He was Beatified in 1929 and Canonised in 1970.

St John Plessington is one of two Shrewsbury saints to be canonised among the 40 martyrs of England and Wales in 1970, the other being St Margaret Ward. He is also one of six of the 40 martyred after they were accused of treason in the "Popish Plot", which had been fabricated by Titus Oates, and which led to the deaths of more than 25 innocent Catholics in the late part of the 17th century.

Although he was born in Dimples, near Garstang, Lancashire, St John exercised his ministry in Cheshire and North Wales, and he was hanged, drawn and quartered on 19th July 1679 at Boughton Cross, overlooking the River Dee at West Chester. What is remarkable about his execution is that St John wrote his speech for the scaffold ahead of his death. It was later printed and copies still exist.

According to Butler's Lives of the Saints the speech represents "a particularly clear statement of denial in the face of death of the charges upon which he was condemned", charges which, had they been true, would have made him a dangerous criminal rather than a martyr. St John told the crowd that there was not a shred of evidence of treason against him and he was dying solely on account of his priesthood. With great fortitude, he added: "Bear witness, good hearers, that I profess that I undoubtedly and firmly believe all the articles of the Roman Catholic faith, and for the truth of any of them,

by the assistance of God, I am willing to die; and I had rather die than doubt of any point of faith taught by our holy mother the Roman Catholic Church."

St John, who sometimes called himself William Plessington or John Scarisbrick, had studied for the priesthood at the English College at Valladolid, Spain. He returned to England in 1663 and based himself largely at Puddington Hall, near Burton, Wirral, where he laboured without harassment for more than a decade as chaplain to the Massey family and tutor to the children.

But in 1678 the pretended revelations of a conspiracy to assassinate Charles II and replace him with his Catholic brother James created national hysteria. In December that year they claimed their first victim, Edward Coleman, and until 1st July 1681, with the martyrdom of St Oliver Plunkett, Catholics were executed in locations all over England... Three witnesses gave false evidence of seeing St John serving as a priest: he forgave each of them by name from the scaffold.

St John was buried in the churchyard of St Nicholas's, Burton, after Puddington locals would not allow his quarters to be displayed. Attempts to locate and exhume his body, as recent as 1962, have been unsuccessful but vestments associated with him are kept at St Winefride's in Neston and a small piece of blood-stained linen is treasured as a relic in St Francis's Church in Chester.

He is especially venerated in
Holywell, North Wales,
where he ministered.