



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

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT 19 MARCH 2017

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	9.15 am St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
TUESDAY	9.15 am Lent Weekday
WEDNESDAY	12 noon Lent Weekday
THURSDAY	12 noon Lent Weekday/St Turibius of Mongrovejo
FRIDAY	8.00 am Lent Weekday
SATURDAY	11.30 am The Annunciation of the Lord (Novena 11.15)

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 10.00-11.00 am 12.00-12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER

St Thomas More, Alkrington

Collection last Sunday £1114.49. The Lenten Fast Day has so far brought in £1076. Thanks to those who gifted aided their donations, this will be worth a further £111.50.

Thanks to your generosity in the **Starving World box** in February we have been able to send £706.97 to Aid to the Church in Need. **The contents of the box in March will go to CAFOD for the emergency appeal for the famine victims in Africa.** Bishop Arnold spoke about this famine last Thursday when he came for the Deanery Lenten Station. Donations for cakes afterwards in the parish hall came to £382 for this appeal. Thank you for your great usual generosity.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Sacramental Programme is today Sunday 9.50 am in the parish hall. The theme is 'We are People who follow Jesus'.

Catholicism Course

Our next DVD night 'Faith of Our Fathers part 1' will be in the presbytery **next Wednesday 22 March at 7.30pm** with our last session a fortnight later on 5 April 2017. If you wish to find out more about our Faith the two

*stalls at the back of church – the **CTS** rack by the choir stairs and the **Lighthouse** rack near the piety stall – offer plenty of material, as does the parish **Library** in the hall. The Library is open after both Sunday morning Masses (only after the 11 o'clock though today).*

H.C.P.T. Fair

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to make the Fair such a great success. The amount raised was £1700 which will pay for

two children to go to Lourdes and to help with the fares of young helpers. Many, many thanks.

Found on Highfield Road – white rosary beads in brown leather case. Claim from the presbytery.

Gift Aid If you are a taxpayer please take a copy of the information sheet "A Taxing Question" from the table at the back of church.

2017 Diocesan Almanac is now on the piety stall, £3.

Deanery/Diocese

Caritas Diocese of Salford (6)

"What does Caritas do?" To help answer that question the Newsletter will print details as space permits.

The Young Parents Home in Bolton provides a safe and secure home for young pregnant women and young women and their babies before moving on to independence. The Radcliffe Road unit also runs a parent and toddler group for young families who live there and those who have moved on; and an Aftercare Worker continues to support young families after they move to ensure that their move into independence is successful.

The Young Parents home in Blackburn provides the same services as the home in Bolton. This unit also prepares young mothers for their first independent tenancy and for successful parenting where family support is not readily available. It is very successful in reducing the threat of parental failure and the admission of the infants/toddlers to the care system. The engagement of young parents may, but does not always, precede the birth of the baby and normally lasts beyond the first year of the child's life.

The Blackburn home provides a temporary home for seven young women and their babies for a maximum of two years, though often the period is shorter as women reach a stage where they can cope independently and are able to have a tenancy allocated to them.

(To be continued)

Youth Celebration

Pope Francis has asked that the World Day of Prayer for Young People be celebrated **in each Diocese on the weekend of Palm Sunday**. In Salford the celebrations for young people will take place on **Saturday 8 April** starting at 1.00 pm at the Cathedral Centre and Cathedral. The afternoon will conclude with Palm Sunday Mass at 4.00 pm. For more information please contact Lorraine at the Youth Office on 0161 817 2205 or lorraine.leonard@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

The Diocese of Salford regularly updates **twitter and facebook** with news, events and notices from around the diocese. If you are on facebook and twitter why not follow us to keep up to date with what is happening. Search for @SalfordDiocese on both to find us!

Bishop Arnold writes:

"Our Lenten Fast Day has only just past, and so it is with great heaviness of heart that I find it necessary to write to you about the situation of terrible need in East Africa, which you will no doubt have seen in the news. Severe drought, and several compounding problems - lack of food, and civil war - means that now over 16 million people across South Sudan, Somalia, northern Kenya and Ethiopia are facing starvation. The United Nations warns that the world faces the largest humanitarian crisis in more than 70 years.'

The contents of the Starving World box during March will go to this

appeal. Your donations will get food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/eastafrica

Blessed Oscar Romero Commemoration is at

Sacred Heart Church, Queen Street, Colne, BB8 9NB **next Saturday 25 March**. 1.30 pm Tea/Coffee, 2.00 pm Talk by Fr Jim O'Keefe, 3.00 pm Mass.

Lenten Focus

Each week of Lent **Aid to the Church in Need** focuses on countries where its projects are helping the Faithful and often making the **difference between life and death**.

In Nigeria, Islamist terror group Boko Haram — which roughly translates as 'Western Education is Forbidden' — is committed to **wiping out Christianity**.

Their terror campaign against the 'establishment' has created instability and a climate of fear. In north-east Nigeria **over 5,000 faithful have been killed**, 100,000 displaced, 7,000 women widowed and 10,000 children orphaned.

ACN supports the Church in Nigeria, **helping to care** for the huge numbers of people who are now homeless and **giving hope** by rebuilding Churches and buildings — the hub of the Christian community.

Thanks to your compassion and generosity ACN is funding projects providing emergency aid, spiritual support and comfort for those in need.

This Lent, please pray for Christians in Nigeria.