



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

5th SUNDAY IN LENT 2 APRIL 2017

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning	9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	9.15 am	Lent Weekday
TUESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday/St Isidore
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday/St Vincent Ferrer
THURSDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Edward Ryan
FRIDAY	8.00 am	Lent Weekday/St John Baptiste de la Salle
SATURDAY	3.00 pm	Queen of Peace Day
NEXT SUNDAY – Palm (Passion) Sunday. Palms will be blessed at all Masses.		

CONFESSIONS this week

SATURDAY	10.00-11.00 am	12.00-12.30 pm	6.00-6.45 pm
TUESDAY	7.00 pm Penance Service, Servite church		

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER

The Residents of Nazareth House and retired priests

Collection last Sunday £1089.70. Thank you also for donations of £20 and £90.

The contents of the Starving World box in March will go to CAFOD for the emergency appeal for the famine victims in Africa. Final result next week. For Lent Fast Day results see below.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Easter Vigil Mass

The Mass on **Saturday evening, 15 April**, will be the Mass of the Easter Vigil and **will begin at 8.00 pm.**

Traidcraft today

You will find fairtrade goods in the Parish Hall **today 2 April** after both the 9am and 11am Masses. Last chance to stock up on ethical chocolate before Easter!

Offertory Envelopes:
since the new tax year

begins this Thursday 6 April you will need new boxes of envelopes next Sunday. **Please pick up your box** by the sacristy door and save us having to deliver it. If you don't already use the envelopes, please consider joining – especially if you are a taxpayer. You can give as much as you like, as often as you wish – there is no commitment to any fixed donation. See leaflets at the back of church.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day:
many thanks to everyone who has already returned a Fast Day envelope. The

*total donated to date is **£1,359.80.** We will continue to accept gift envelopes this weekend - just put them in with the normal offertory collection. There are still some spare envelopes at the back of church, if you haven't yet had one.*

*The contents of the Starving World box in March will go to CAFOD for the **emergency appeal for the famine victims in Africa.** So far **£1451.28** has been given.*

200 Club March winners
£80 58 Mrs A Berry,
agent Presbytery

£40 64 Mrs L Goodman,
agent Mrs G Devlin
£20 279 Mrs E Stanley,
agent Mrs M Makin

Penance Service

We will hold a joint Penitential Service with the Servites at their church on **Tuesday 4 April** at 7 o'clock. This could be a help to making 'Easter Duties', i.e. that Catholics are bound to receive Holy Communion at least once a year and that during the Easter Season. Anyone conscious of mortal sin is bound to make a sacramental confession beforehand.

These are of course minimum requirements. If we wish to grow in the spiritual life we will receive these Sacraments much more frequently. **Pope Francis** said recently: "I invite all communities to live with faith ... and rediscover the sacrament of reconciliation."

Parish Youth Rep wanted

The diocesan formation department is recruiting Parish Youth Reps in every parish: young adults 18-25 who are already part of the parish, and who are passionate and confident about enabling/encouraging other young people to share in the life of the parish, deanery and diocese. Training and support are promised and Bishop Arnold will commission the Youth Reps. Initial training day is **Saturday 27 May**. See poster in inner porch.

Deanery/Diocese

Caritas Diocese of Salford (8)

"What does Caritas do?"

The Lalley Welcome Centre, Collyhurst, is a welcoming community that responds to immediate need. St Malachy's Primary School facilitated the use of the lower ground floor as a community space in which parish, school, parents and community groups work for the benefit of the locality. It is a source of advice and support, a jobs club, IT upskilling, a contact centre, etc. The success of the food bank was such that larger, more appropriate accommodation has to be found to support and respond to the ever-growing need.

The Farnworth Welcome Centre offers informal education to reduce social isolation, particularly of women, and supports unemployed people seeking work by building skills and confidence.
(To be continued)

Caritas is also organizing a **Mass for Migrants** at St John's Cathedral on the morning of the **Bank Holiday Monday 1 May**. There is an open invitation to attend and to help celebrate the diversity in our parishes. For more information contact comms@caritassalford.org.uk.

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

Lenten Focus

Each week of Lent we focus on countries where the Aid to the Church in Need projects are helping the Faithful; and in many cases, **making the difference between life and death.**

In **Syria**, life is precarious. As Christians, living in Raqqa – a Daesh (ISIS) stronghold – Elias and Samar were forced to pay the Jizya Tax for non-Muslims. Recently injured, Elias got an exemption but the 'tax collector' wouldn't accept it, calling him a 'Kafir' – an unbeliever.

The argument escalated when **Elias was beaten** and the 'enforcer' flung his statue of Our Lady of Fatima into a bin. Elias retaliated – for which he was **dragged away to solitary confinement.**

Brutalised and bound to a cross, after a month he was told that his **throat would be slit**. Before this could happen, the building was shelled and in the confusion he managed to escape, find his wife and escape with her to Aleppo.

Thanks to Sister Annie Demerjian, a key ACN project partner, the couple are receiving essential aid to survive – a home, food, clothes, medicine, heating, electricity and clean drinking water.

Elias says, "**I have always prayed to Our Lady.** God delivered us from evil and brought us to safety. We came here with nothing but now our hearts are full of gratitude for what you are doing to support our every need."

The Christian community in Aleppo has endured extreme suffering and continues to rely on the Church and ACN for emergency support.