



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.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 23 DECEMBER 2018

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY 9.15 am Advent Weekday

TUESDAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Holy Day of Obligation

Mass at Midnight (Monday), beginning with 1st Vespers (Evening Prayer of the Church) at 11.30 pm Monday night.

Mass on Christmas morning will be the same as on normal Sundays, i.e. 9.00 and 11.00.

WEDNESDAY 12 noon St Stephen, the first Martyr
THURSDAY 12 noon St John, Apostle & Evangelist
FRIDAY 9.15 am The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
SATURDAY 11.00 am St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr (Novena 10.40 am)

CONFESSIONS this week

MONDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE) 10.00 am – 11.00 am
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 Our Lady's Langley, & St John Fisher, Boarshaw

Collection last Sunday £1075.96. Thank you for your generosity in last week's retiring collection for the parish **St Vincent de Paul Society**. You gave £642.28.

Thank you also for donations of £10 & £20 towards Christmas altar flowers, and £80 from the Zimbabwe community. **Crib Offerings** this year will go to Bury Hospice. Until the feast of the Epiphany the St Anthony's box at the back of church will be renamed 'Crib Offerings'.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

A big 'Thank you'...

... to Our Lady of Grace School Choir and Children for leading us so beautifully in last week's Christmas Carol Service in the church. May you, and all our

parishioners, have a lovely Christmas.

New Year's Eve

Peter Stevens, former pupil of Our Lady of Grace and St Monica's schools, and now organist at Westminster Cathedral, will play the

organ here at Our Lady's on Monday 31 December at 6.30 pm for Evening Prayer of the Church, Benediction and hymn of thanksgiving to celebrate the blessings received in 2018. This is a lovely custom in different parts of the world

and one we are happy to share.

On **New Year's Day** we celebrate the solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God. Mass will be at 12 noon.

Sacramental Programme

There will be a meeting for children and their parents on **Sunday 13 January** at 9.50 am in the parish hall. The Sunday before that, **6 January**, would all catechists please come to a meeting in the parish hall, also at 9.50 am? We will look at the new programme to be followed in the coming year.

The Parish Hall

The Ladies' toilets will be completely refurbished during the first week of the new year. The disabled toilet will remain open for use.

The hall is proving popular for children's parties but its potential is much greater.

Please consider using the hall for your family events: baptisms, weddings, family parties and reunions, significant birthdays, etc. *Why look further when we have such a tremendous asset on the doorstep?*

What – no Bells?

Well, not quite. The 'drivers' on the bells on the Bury New Road side of church have given up the ghost and must be replaced. Currently, the bells on this side of the church are soundless. The bells on the Bury Old Road side of church are working normally. Drivers will be replaced early in the new year.

Last minute gifts

*Have a look on the piety stall for Our Lady of Grace **torch key rings** (only £1.50 each)*

and pens. *Your family and friends will love these very practical items. We have been getting rave reports about the torch key rings! The 'soft touch' pens are also very useful when using a computer or iPhone.*

Deanery/Diocese

Inviting NQTs

The Salford Diocesan Education Department invites newly qualified teachers to join the diocesan **Primary Teaching Pool**. The Primary Pool will identify and recommend high quality candidates who will gain QTS in summer 2019, for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2019.

The Department is looking for excellent NQT's who are:

- able to inspire and motivate by providing high quality teaching and learning
- enthusiastic and creative
- keen to contribute and support the Catholic ethos of the school
- committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children

The Application Form, Person Specification and Job Description are available to download from the Diocesan Website.

www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/services/education/vacancies/nqt-pool

Completed application forms are to be returned to Lauren Cumbo, Department for Education, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP or emailed to lauren.cumbo@dioceseofsalford.org.uk by 12:00 pm on Friday 25 January 2019. Further enquiries may be made to 0161 817 2204.

Please alert any qualifying family members or friends.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Guest speakers, including survivors, will share their experience with us in Heathlands Village on 23 January 2019. See poster in outer porch for details of how to join.

Caritas says 'Thanks'

Following the recent call for extra gifts for children in our diocesan schools who wouldn't otherwise get any presents on Christmas Day, the Caritas Schools Service has been overwhelmed with the support. In the last week, even since making the appeal Caritas has received over 40 extra requests for Christmas presents. With the generosity and kindness of supporters they have been able to satisfy all requests, and a small surplus of presents will start to be gathered for next year's Toy Appeal.

The Surprise of Christmas

"Christmas is to prefer God's silent voice to the noises of consumerism. If we are able to be silent before the Crib, Christmas will be a surprise for us also, not something already seen. To be in silence before the Crib: this is the invitation for Christmas.

"Take a bit of time, go before the Crib and stay in silence. And you will feel, you will see the surprise.

"This Christmas, may you and your families experience the joy and peace proclaimed by the angels, and be ever more open to God's wonderful surprises!"

Pope Francis, Audience, 19 December 2018