



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

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER 29 APRIL 2018

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00

am

MONDAY	9.15 am	Easter Weekday/St Pius V
TUESDAY	12 noon	Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Athanasius
THURSDAY	12 noon	Sts Philip & James, apostles
FRIDAY	9.15 am	The English Martyrs
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Easter Weekday

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 11.30 am-12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Saturday 11.30 am - 12.30 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER St Peter's, Middleton

Collection last Sunday £1388.68.

Thank you for the second collection for the Priests' Training Fund. It came to £863.63. Already further contributions have come in and the Fund will remain open for another two weeks.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Thank you!

Fr Allen writes: 'I was completely taken by surprise last Sunday. The warmth of your greetings and the scope of the celebrations made for a most memorable 80th birthday. I can't thank you all enough, including those more intimately connected with the planning. It was teamwork at its best from all areas of our parish family. Please God I will be blessed with good health and strength to return some

of your love and affection for some time to come. The next International Eucharistic Congress is to be held in Budapest in 2020 and your presentations will more than amply see me there.'

Sacramental Programme

'We are People who follow Jesus.' That's the theme of the meeting **today, Sunday 29 April, 9.50 am** in the parish hall. The children will also celebrate this theme at a special assembly in school next Wednesday afternoon.

Also today, **Children's Liturgy** will take place during the 11 o'clock Mass. Year 2 children and younger are invited into the parish hall.

May Procession, Crowning

This year's May procession and Crowning will take place on **Sunday 13 May** at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Please make a note of the date and time now.

200 Club April winners:
£80 251 Mr & Mrs T Allen
Agent Mrs L Smith

£40 33 Mr S Walmsley
Agent Presbytery
£20 142 Mr S Barnes
Agent Mr J Slattery

Deanery/Diocese

National Eucharistic Congress

The Congress will be held in Liverpool 7-9 September this year. You will find all details on the Salford diocesan website. **Contrary to other reports, there is still time to register for the Congress.** If you would like to know more, see Fr Allen or look on one of the websites. It is planned that transport will be arranged from this area.

Some inspirational speakers will lead sessions at the Congress, including **Bishop Robert Barron** from Los Angeles, one of the leading Catholic evangelists of our time. **Why not come?**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Saturday 5 May – Pick up here 7.20 am, by coach, back 10 pm. £20 return. To book a place please contact Fiona, T: 07939 262 204 E: fionarobinson@gmail.com

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis will attend this meeting in Dublin. Bishop John Arnold will lead a group from Salford, 21-27 August.

The cost is £690.00 for adults, £545 for children aged 4–12, including coach travel, return ferry crossing Holyhead-Dublin, six nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4* Hotel Plaza, attendance at the three-day meeting and guaranteed ticket for the festival of families and ticket for the final Mass with Pope

Francis, with coach transfers in Ireland to/from the event. This event is open to families or individuals. For details, contact formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Were you at Notre Dame?

*Members of the Notre Dame Association will attend the 11 o'clock Mass here at Our Lady of Grace on **Saturday 12 May** and then have a re-union in the parish hall. All who attended a Notre Dame school or college are invited.*

Ascension Thursday

Please note that Ascension Thursday, previously kept on a Sunday, has been restored to Thursday. This year the date is **10 May**.

The San Damiano Cross

When Bishop John Arnold launched the diocesan programme 'Hope in the Future' he gave every church in the Salford Diocese a copy of the San Damiano Cross. Our copy hangs on the pillar near the altar and next to the lectern.

In 1205, as Francis of Assisi prayed in the neglected church of San Damiano, he heard a voice speaking from the cross in the sanctuary: "Go, repair my house which is falling into ruin." Taking the voice literally, Francis ran to his father's shop, took some very expensive cloth, sold it and gave the money to the parish priest to repair the church building.

His enraged father dragged Francis before the Bishop of Assisi, demanding that his son repay the money. In response, Francis declared that from that point on, God would be his Father; he renounced his inheritance and began the process of

discovering that rebuilding the church did not simply mean replacing bricks and mortar. It meant beginning a new religious movement of friars, sisters and lay people whose rule was to live the Gospel. They would preach peace in a time of violence, embrace poverty in a time of economic change, make brothers and sisters of every living creature, and proclaim the Gospel in the midst of non-believers by living it and, if necessary, using words to explain it.

The San Damiano Cross continues to hold a special place in the hearts of all Franciscans because the words, 'Rebuild my Church', remain true today. Francis listened to the voice of God and discerned what God wanted him to do. His dying wish was that his followers would do the same. 'I have done my part,' he said to the friars gathered around him as he lay dying. 'May Christ teach you to do yours.' May we be open to listening to God's voice as we go into the future!

The San Damiano cross dates from the 12th century and has Syrian origins. It was painted by an unknown artist on cloth glued to the walnut frame. It is about 190 cm (6 ft) high, 120 cms (4 ft) wide and 12 cms (4 in) thick and was hung above the altar. It now hangs in the Basilica of St Clare in Assisi.

The San Damiano Icon is then a personal encounter with the transfigured Christ – God made man. The Crucifix contains the story of the death, resurrection and ascension into glory. It expresses the total and universal Paschal Mystery of Christ. It invites us all to take part in it with a

*lively and lived faith, just as
St Francis did. Christ's
saving death is shown in
John's Gospel in its serene
majesty, and this Crucifix
portrays this in picture form.*