



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

8th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 3 MARCH 2019

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY 9.15 am (St Casimir)
TUESDAY 12 noon

WEDNESDAY **ASH WEDNESDAY** Day of fasting and Abstinence
Masses 12 noon and 7.00 pm with blessing and distribution of ashes at both

THURSDAY 12 noon St Perpetua & St Felicity
FRIDAY **8.00 am** (St John of God)
SATURDAY 11.00 am (St Frances of Rome) (Novena 10.40)

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 11.30 am -12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 11.30 am to 12.30 pm

YOUR PRAYERS are asked for Mrs Margaret Sutton, late of Shrewsbury Road, Prestwich. R.I.P.

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER St Michael & St Bernadette, Whitefield

Collection last Sunday £1148.55. Thank you also for a gift aided donation of £400.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Sacramental Programme

Children and parents meet this morning in the parish hall at 9.50 am for an important part of this year's Sacramental Programme. They will consider chapter nine in the 'I Belong' book, entitled '**Do this in memory of Me**'. Today's session will be followed next Sunday by a celebration of the theme at each of the Masses.

It's next Thursday!

*Our new project to help people with memory loss or dementia, together with their carers, begins **this Thursday 7 March at 11.30 am**, with an hour or so of singing and having a chat over a warm drink in a safe and happy place. We will meet in **the Cottage**. If numbers grow in future we will move to the Hall. Please tell anyone you know who might benefit.*

Traidcraft

Fair-trade goods in the Hall **next Sunday 10 March** after both morning Masses. Usual goodies, plus we will take orders for the Real Easter Egg, the only chocolate egg that tells the story of Easter.

Refreshments are served in the parish Hall after both Sunday morning Masses. Do call in for a cuppa and chat if you have time. The

newly re-furbished ladies' toilets are now in use.

Parish Group?

In his Pastoral Letter today **Bishop Arnold** writes:
I would like to challenge every parish in this Diocese to form a group concerned with giving advice and making practical responses. How best will we respond to his challenge? Your thoughts and suggestions are very welcome.

Friday Lenten Masses

From this coming week Friday Mass will be at 8.00 am. For those able to come this would be a very worthwhile Lenten exercise.

St Monica's: during the coming week the priests of local parishes will be in St Monica's to speak to the pupils from their parishes. Our Lady of Grace turn is Thursday.

HPCT Fair Saturday 16 March, 10.30 am.

200 Club February winners

£80 109 Mrs E Scholes
Agent, Presbytery
£40 356 Mrs S Zimny
Agent, Mrs E Harrington
£20 26 Mrs J Booth
Agent, Presbytery

European Citizens

A "EU Citizens' Rights Session" **Saturday 9 March at 10.30 am in Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall.**

Catholic Priests

The *Manchester Gazette* for 13 November 1824 contained this notice: 'Yesterday of typhus fever at his house in Granby Row, the Rev. John Ashurst, Catholic Priest, in the 36th year of his age ... He needs no eulogy in these pages: the poor will

recount his virtues and everyone who knew him will lament his loss.'

Throughout the nineteenth century there were several outbreaks of typhus and cholera, especially in the overcrowded slums and the factories of Lancashire. When ministering to the sick and dying, priests took a real risk of becoming victims themselves.

Fr Ashurst of St Augustine's, Manchester, was only one of a number of priests who caught 'the fever' and died ministering to their people. We might also recall Fr Henry Gillow, rector of St Mary's, Mulberry Street, Manchester who died in 1837 aged 41 and Fr John Latham of St Mary's, died 1838 aged 28. Shortly after this, Bishop Briggs, Vicar Apostolic of the North, lamented that he had lost twenty-four of his priests in the space of eighteen months.

Others included Fr John Parsons of St Augustine's, died 1838 aged 35; Fr J Fielding Whittaker, former rector of St Wilfrid's, Hulme, died ministering to plague victims in Liverpool; Fr Joseph Curr, formerly of St Augustine's, died ministering to victims in Leeds; Fr E Brown, died in 1839 ministering to plague victims in Rochdale; Fr Edward Unsworth of St Patrick's, Manchester; Fr Thomas Rimmer of St James the Less, Rawtenstall, 1848 aged 33.

It was recorded of Fr Rimmer that 'summoned to the bedside of an Irish refugee, driven from his native land by famine and pestilence, and suffering from a most deadly form of "fever" in the town of Haslingden, contracted the malady in the administration

of his spiritual duties, and was called to his reward after a few days' illness.'

Two priests of Sts Peter and Paul parish in Bolton died whilst looking after plague victims: Fr William Glassbrook and Fr John Dowdall. The latter had opened a soup kitchen for the poor. Among those who could be added to a long list who died in similar situations we might include Fr F Conway of Mount Carmel, Salford, died 1869; Fr William Barry of St Alban's, Blackburn, caught small pox while visiting the sick during an epidemic and died 1874; Fr William James Hampson in Darwen, newly ordained, died 1877 aged 24; Fr Peter Kopp, a German priest who came to help in Salford, also died in Darwen in 1878 aged 25; and Fr Seth Clarkson who founded St Cuthbert's, Withington, died 1880 aged 49.

Not all those who caught 'the fever' died. Monsignor Gadd recalled how he caught typhus more than once in the fever wards of Salford workhouse, but how 'on one of these occasions the doctor who attended the same patient caught it and died'. Liverpool, Leeds and other northern towns and cities could also list the names of priests who died carrying out their service of the sick.

We should also include two from the Salford diocese who caught the Spanish flu whilst ministering to victims at the end of 1918: Fr Anthony Wilcox of St Edmund's, Miles Platting, aged 27 and ordained only a few months; and Fr Thomas Whitaker of St Anne's, Oldham, ordained only four years.

(From a chapter 'Martyrs of Charity' in a forthcoming book by Fr Allen)