



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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 30 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	Christmas Octave/St Sylvester
TUESDAY	12 noon	Mary, the Holy Mother of God New Year's Day
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen
THURSDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday/The Most Holy Name of Jesus
FRIDAY	9.15 am	Funeral Mass for Patrick Cahill
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Christmas Weekday (Novena 10.40 am)
SUNDAY NEXT - The Epiphany of the Lord		

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 Mr Frank Smith of Polefield Road, Prestwich, and Mrs Jadwiga Getz of Willow Road, Prestwich. May they rest in peace.

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Sacred Heart, Rochdale

Collection last Sunday £1086.43.

Christmas Day: thank you for your generous offerings, from which the parish benefits by £2453.72.

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

New Year

Fr Allen and Fr Dearman want to say a big 'Thank You' for all the greetings and good wishes and presents they received over Christmas, and to wish you all in return a very happy new year. We have much to be grateful for. The

Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday will give us the chance to put the new year in God's good hands.

Warmest thanks also to those who have worked so hard during the past weeks to make the church and the liturgy more worthy of the feast of 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 **tomorrow 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 with Mass 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. Next Sunday, **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 coming week. 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?*

'Lighthouse' rack

A good New Year's resolution might be to try to learn a bit more about our holy faith. The parish library is there to help us, as is the 'Lighthouse' rack with CDs on the wall near the piety stall in church. CDs are £2 each, or they can simply be borrowed and put back. These days, at home or with people stuck in their cars, these CDs can make excellent listening. In the same circumstances, the

Rosary can make for excellent praying!

120 years ago

*Entries in the parish Log Book for **1899**:*

January 3: Annual Tea Party was a complete failure. Children's Tea Party & Xmas Tree. Children were delighted. Dr Ley gave me [Fr Joseph Hayes PP] a very beautiful tree for the occasion.

January 8: Sanctuary Lamp fell during Mass, owing to the chain breaking. Caused great commotion. Fortunately no-one was hurt.

200 Club December winners

£80 98 Mrs M Raffo
Agent Mrs A Murphy
£40 103 Mrs M Walsh
Agent Presbytery
£20 158 Mrs J Hall
Agent Mrs A Murphy

Pre-Marriage Course begins in January! **Watch this space!**

Deanery/Diocese

From Bishop Arnold

'We are coming to the close of what has been a very busy year which has been particularly demanding because of the need for change. Thank you for all the work that has been done to help the Diocese grow in its mission.

'Wherever you may be celebrating Christmas this year, I hope that we may all remember the real reason for our celebration – we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is the opportunity to remind ourselves of God's love for us and the challenge to each of us to be channels

of that love to those around us.

'I wish you a very Happy Christmas and every blessing in our hopes for the New Year.'

+John

For the feast day of the Holy Family

Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity.

The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth.

The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

*From *With Christ Through the Year* by Fr Bernard Strasser OSB*

Today's feast of the Holy Family is a good time to think about the family unit and to pray for our human and spiritual families; to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit; and to evaluate our own family life. What ways might it be improved?