



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 EPIPHANY 6 JANUARY 2019

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	9.15 am	Christmas Weekday/St Raymond of Penyafort
TUESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Frank Smith
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday
THURSDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday
FRIDAY	9.15 am	Christmas Weekday
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Christmas Weekday/St Aelred of Rievaulx (Novena 10.40 am)
SUNDAY NEXT	The Baptism 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

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Nazareth House and retired priests in the deanery

Collection last Sunday £1206.74.

Next Sunday will be the annual White Flower Appeal by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). There will be a retiring collection next Sunday (see over).

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Sacramental Programme

There will be a meeting for children and their parents **next Sunday 13 January** at 9.50 am in the parish hall. Today, **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.

Welcome!

A warm welcome to **Mr Luke Bradbury** who will be

with us for the next three weeks. Luke is a third-year student at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. He comes from Moston and is training to serve as a priest in the Salford Diocese. We wish him well in his training and hope he will enjoy his time with us.

*Luke is also an accomplished organist. We are enjoying a flush of organists in these days. On New Year's Eve **Peter Stevens**, organist at Westminster Cathedral, played for us.*

*Next Tuesday **Paul Inwood**, internationally known composer and former cathedral organist, will play the organ at the funeral Mass for Frank Smith at 12 noon. He is a family friend.*

The Parish Hall

Unfortunately, due to illness, the refurbishment of the Ladies' toilets in the parish hall due last week did not happen. Hopefully, the work will now be done at the start of February. 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?

Traidcraft

Our first monthly sale of fairly traded foods in 2019 will be held in the Parish Hall today, Sunday 6 January, after the 9am and 11am Masses. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to buy Fairtrade wherever possible? You may pay a few pence more - but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that the farmers and producers of the goods you are buying are receiving a fair price for their produce. So come and stock up with Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, rice, biscuits, muesli, honey, sweets and cleaning products - and much more.

Pre-Marriage Course

We are trying to finalise dates. Keep watching this space!

Food Bank

*You have been very generous in giving items for the Bury Food Bank. In the first half of 2018 you gave 1612 items. In the second half of 2018 you gave 1794 items. **The yearly total was therefore 3406. This was an increase of 651 items on the year 2017.***

'White Flower' Appeal

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will hold its annual appeal **next Sunday**. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the

decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation.

Deanery/Diocese

Prayer for Vocations

Every day of the year, a parish or a school or a community in the diocese is praying for vocations to the priesthood, for service in our diocese of Salford. It will be the turn of **St Monica's High School** on Wednesday 23 January; **Our Lady of Grace parish** on Thursday 25 April; the **Sisters of Sion** on Monday 27 May; and **Our Lady of Grace Primary School** on Thursday 24 October.

Churches Together

The carol singers at Longfield precinct just before Christmas raised £72.66 for the homeless. They gave out many leaflets of Christmas Services in the area covered by Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal.

Posts in Education

(Notice from the Diocesan Education Department)
Are you a teacher? Looking for a new challenge? Then we could be looking for you! We have three exciting new opportunities in our Education Department. We are recruiting for:
Deputy Director for School System Development and Improvement;

Lead Teacher/Innovator for Primary Religious Education; Lead Teacher/Innovator for Secondary Religious Education.

For all the details check out our vacancies page on the Salford Diocesan website.

The Epiphany

A meditation by Bishop Richard Challoner (1691-1781)

Consider first, that this day is kept by the Church of God with great solemnity, as one of the principal festivals of the year; and is called the Epiphany, that is to say, the apparition or manifestation of our Lord, because on this day he was first made known to the Gentiles, viz., to the wise men of the east, who were conducted to him by the apparition of an extraordinary star, and inspired to pay their early homage and worship to him.

O how just It is that we should all celebrate with a grateful devotion this day of our first calling to the knowledge and faith of Christ - this Christmas-day of the Gentiles!

O my soul! how great is this benefit of thy vocation to the true Christian faith! What would all other favours or advantages, either of nature or of grace, have availed thee if this had been wanting? How miserable must thou have been, both for time and eternity, if, like millions of others, thou hadst been left to 'sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!'

O bless Him, then, both now and forever, who without any desert on thy part, has brought thee to this admirable light!