



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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15th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 12 JULY 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

You are to be congratulated on the way you have handled the very different situation in church this week. With so many benches roped off and a one-way system in operation, things might have seemed complicated. But everything has gone smoothly, without a hitch.

Last Tuesday saw the first public Mass here for over three months. Numbers attending were just right for the reduced capacity of the church. All who came were shoe-horned safely into place. Subsequent days saw smaller numbers, with no difficulty of accommodation. **Mass will continue each day, Monday to Saturday, at 12 noon.**



Some of you who used to visit the church at different times in the day are now coming to Mass at 12 noon. This has reduced the numbers calling in at other times. Numbers are very low after 4 o'clock.

Now that public Mass has resumed, it seems sensible to reduce the church opening hours. This will free a number

of welcomers who will be able to provide cover at other times.

From tomorrow, Monday 13 July, the church will be open Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm, and Saturday 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.



The Bishops of England and Wales are still urging all of us in the parishes to take great care. Only last Friday they sent out 14 more pages of detailed instructions covering the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. We will continue to follow these instructions as best we can. We have an obligation to look after one another and not to put people at risk. This is especially true now that the country is opening up from lockdown in so many ways.

I can understand that some people are very hesitant about coming into church as yet. Let's remember that the Sunday obligation to attend Mass does not apply during this pandemic.

People are asking when Mass on Sundays will resume. That is a very difficult question to answer. Given that places in church

are currently restricted to fifty places, there is no way we could accommodate all who would wish to come on Sundays. Fifty places does not of course mean only fifty people. If people from the same household come, they will occupy one place but may be several in number. Even so, there would still be too many people for places available.

We could almost double the available places by reducing the social distancing from two metres to one metre. But this would mean everyone would have to wear a face covering. Some might find this intimidating. For now, I think it is better not to go down that road.



A good question we might ask is: how has our taking part in the Mass changed us? Recently **Pope Francis** gave a series of talks on the Mass. He ended by saying:

We know well that when Mass ends, the commitment to Christian witness opens up. Christians do not go to Mass to do a weekly task and then forget, no. Christians go to Mass to participate in the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord

and then live more as Christians: the commitment to Christian witness opens up. We leave the church to "go in peace" to bring God's blessing in daily activities, in our homes, in the workplace, among the occupations of the earthly city, "glorifying the Lord with our lives".

Every time I leave Mass, I have to go out better than I entered, with more life, with more strength, with more desire to give Christian witness.



In many parts of the world the virus seems to be increasing. This is particularly so in some of the poorest areas of the world. We must pray for an end to the pandemic and pray that a vaccine will be found soon. This is a suggested prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress, in faith we ask for an end of the pandemic afflicting the world: and we pray: look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name.

Through Christ Our Lord.



Many parishioners have generously kept up their contributions during the past

months by dropping their envelopes through the presbytery door. Thank you! That is as good a way as any. Others may wish to donate directly into the parish account:

Barclays Bank.

Sort code 20-55-34.

A/C no 60192309.

A/C name, TSDT Our Lady of Grace Prestwich

This would also be good for setting up a standing order.



The first Bishop of Salford, William Turner, petitioned Pope Pius IX in 1851 to place this diocese in a special way under the patronage of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**. The petition was granted and since then Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been the **principal patron of our diocese of Salford**. Her feast day is next Thursday, 16 July. Fr Dearman joins me in wishing you all a good week and every blessing on that day.

Fr Allen



National Census 2021

The following notice may be of interest. The first phase of Census 2021 recruitment in England and Wales has started and we have been asked to help to recruit local people.

Local people make the census, and we'll be hiring thousands of people over the coming months. Anyone who is interested in any of the roles can register now at www.censusjobs.co.uk.

The first adverts for the census engagement manager roles go live on the website from 7 July 2020. The deadline to apply for these roles is 31 July

2020. The salary range for these roles is from £18.87 to £24.56 per hour dependent on location. The contracted hours are 37 per week, the hours are flexible but will include some evening and weekend work. Come to www.censusjobs.co.uk and we'll take care of the rest.

Neil Yemm

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Fr Dearman has written a series of reflections on the Lord's Prayer. Here is Part One:

From time to time people have come up to me and said "Your mother taught me when I was five - she was lovely" or "Your father was my woodwork teacher - what a character!" You can imagine how such comments make me feel. If my parents were so special, to some people at least, that makes me feel that maybe I am special too.

My parents are obviously special to me. But for them I wouldn't be here at all. They gave me the gift of life.

The first two words of the Lord's Prayer call God OUR FATHER! How special is that! Without him we would not be here. He gave us the gift of life. By calling him our father we thank him for the gift of life and all his many other gifts which he showers on us every day. Being his children means that we are special, every one of us.