



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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19th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 9 AUGUST 2020

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

This weekend the church bells will ring out once again, inviting people to come to Sunday Mass. What a joyous sound, after four months of silence apart from the marking of the hours!

This weekend we resume our Sunday Masses at the usual times: 7.00 pm on Saturday, 9.00 and 11.00 am on Sunday.

At the same time, we are reminded that the obligation to come to Mass on Sunday does not apply during the present pandemic. Also, because of social distancing, we will not be able to accommodate the numbers who usually come.

That is why we have been encouraging those who can to come on a weekday, and to treat that as their 'Sunday' Mass, leaving the church available for individuals and families who can't come on a weekday.

I know there are many of you who are working during the week and can't come on weekdays, but you have greatly missed coming on Sundays. **You will be welcome this weekend.**



It is important that we do what we can to avoid putting ourselves or others in danger. From 8 August it will be compulsory to wear a face covering in church. We are already familiar with wearing face coverings in shops and other places, so to wear them in church should not trouble us unduly.

Most people will already have their own mask, but there will be a supply at the church door for anyone who may have forgotten. Some people are exempt from wearing face coverings, for example those with breathing problems, children under 11 years of age and others too. So we mustn't look critically at anyone without a mask. We are advised that the priest need not wear a face covering when on the sanctuary.

The new directives on local lockdown include just about the whole of the Salford Diocese, with the exception of the Ribble Valley. **So do please stay safe!**



A reminder: Our Lady of Grace church is currently open from Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm,

and on Saturday from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm. There is Mass each day Monday to Saturday at 12 noon.



You can access Mass and various devotions on several websites. These include the diocesan website and that of the Catholic Bishops' Conference:
www.cbcew.org.uk
There's also EWTN and churchservices.tv and also shalomtv.tv



A number of individuals and families have asked me to email the parish newsletter to them each week. There is now quite a long list of recipients. If you would like to receive the newsletter weekly in this way, just send me an email with that request. You might mention this also to some of your family and friends. It's a good way to keep oneself informed.



Many of you have been asking how the parish is managing financially during the present crisis. I'm happy to say that thanks to so many of you who have kept up your

contributions we have managed to keep our heads above water and pay our way.

Some parishioners drop their offerings through the presbytery door. Others have elected to pay by monthly standing order. If you would like to do this, you will need these details:

Barclays Bank. Sort code 20-55-34. A/C no 60192309. A/C name, TSDT Our Lady of Grace Prestwich

Please put an identifier on your payments, so that we know for reclaim purposes.



On Wednesday last, **Pope Francis** gave the first of what he intends to be a weekly meditation on the coronavirus pandemic. This is part of what he said:

So we ask ourselves: how can we help heal our world today? As disciples of the Lord Jesus, who is a doctor of souls and bodies, we are called to continue "his work of healing and salvation"(CCC,1421) in a physical, social and spiritual sense.

The Church, although she administers Christ's healing grace through the sacraments, and although she provides health services in the most remote corners of the planet, is not an expert in the prevention or treatment of the pandemic. Nor does it give specific socio-political indications. This is the task of political and social leaders.

However, over the centuries, and in the light of the Gospel, the Church has developed some social principles that are fundamental, principles that

can help us move forward, to prepare for the future we need.

I mention the main ones, closely linked to each other: the principle of the dignity of the person, the principle of the common good, the principle of the preferential option for the poor, the principle of the universal destination of goods, the principle of solidarity, subsidiarity, the principle of care for our common home.

These principles help leaders, society leaders, to drive growth forward and also, as in this case of a pandemic, the healing of the personal and social fabric. All these principles express, in different ways, the virtues of faith, hope and love.

In the coming weeks, I invite you to address together the pressing issues that the pandemic has highlighted, especially social diseases. And we will do so in the light of the Gospel, theological virtues, and the principles of the Church's social doctrine.

We will explore together how our Catholic social tradition can help the human family heal this world suffering from serious diseases. It is my desire to reflect and work together, as followers of Jesus who heals, to build a better world, full of hope for future generations.



Next Sunday we will celebrate Our Lady's crowning feast of her Assumption. Meanwhile, may you all have a happy, safe and blessed week.

Fr Dearman's reflections on the Lord's Prayer.

Part Five:

**May what you want
be done.**

As Jesus prayed on the night before he died, he begged his Father to find an alternative way for him to save the world. His human instinct revolted against the cruelty and humiliation that awaited him. But he knew that the Father wanted him to go through with it and heroically prayed "Not my will but yours be done".

Sometimes we find ourselves facing a crisis and feel tempted to take the easy way out, though we know that we have a duty to face up to the more painful course of action that we know to be right. We may remember the agony of Jesus and realise that our suffering will not be as painful as his. Throughout the ages many people have chosen a painful death rather than a denial of their faith.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask our Father to give us the strength to do what he wants with a good heart, no matter how hard it may be. In a world where so many people suffer the terrible results of evil actions perpetrated in defiance of God's holy will, we pray that the evil-doers may see the error of their ways and that the victims will remain faithful in the face of their torments.

Fr Allen