



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

Phone/Fax: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:
www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk

Parish Email:
john.allen@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Diocesan web page:
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

23rd SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 6 September 2020

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am

MONDAY	12 noon	
TUESDAY	12 noon	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	(St Peter Claver)
THURSDAY	12 noon	St Ambrose Barlow, priest and martyr: diocesan feast
FRIDAY	12 noon	
SATURDAY	12 noon	The Most Holy Name of Mary

The church is open Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm, and on Saturdays from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm, opening again at 6.40 pm for the first Mass of Sunday at 7.00 pm Saturday evening.

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Wasn't it good this week to see our children walking down the street in school uniform? It gave a sense of order, of normality. A lot of thought has gone into the re-opening of schools. The children are sure to benefit.



This week's feasts

We celebrate two feasts of **Our Lady** this week and also the feast day of our local martyr, **St Ambrose Barlow**.

On Tuesday we will remember **Our Lady's birthday**. We all love to mark the birthday of our earthly mothers. Our Catholic instinct prompts us to mark the birthday of our heavenly mother also. After all, she is Mother of the Church and *our* Mother. The prayer after

Communion next Tuesday calls her birthday 'the hope of the entire world and the dawn of salvation'.

As **Pope St Paul VI** put it, 'The Blessed Virgin's role as Mother leads the People of God to turn with filial confidence to her who is ever ready to listen with a mother's affection and efficacious assistance'.

On Saturday we venerate the **Holy Name of Mary**. The Catholic Encyclopedia explains that 'we venerate the name of Mary because it belongs to her who is the Mother of God, the holiest of creatures, the Queen of heaven and earth, the Mother of Mercy....The feast commemorates all the privileges given to Mary by God and all the graces we have received through her intercession and mediation.'

Thursday next puts the focus on **St Ambrose Barlow**. This holy man was born at Barlow Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy. The Hall still stands and is very much in use as the club house of C-c-H Golf Club. The fields where Ambrose and his brothers and sisters used to play, sloping down to the river Mersey, are now played on by golfers.

St Ambrose served as a priest in south and west Lancashire for nearly thirty years before he was finally captured and condemned to death for his priesthood. He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Lancaster on 10 September 1641. He is one of the Forty Martyrs canonised in 1970.

Devotion to him has always been strong in this area. For example, the diocesan almanac records how on **10 September 1893** a 'long procession of over 3,000

people wended its way through the green lanes' from St John's church in Chorlton to Barlow Hall, where Benediction was given. Pilgrims that day came from various parts of Manchester and Salford, Bolton, Oldham, and as far away as Liverpool.



The attendance at **Funeral Masses** is at this time limited to thirty people. Most of these will be family members or close friends. We will celebrate Funeral Masses here at Our Lady of Grace in the mornings before the church is open to all. The Mass for **David Fitzroy** will be on Tuesday next. The names of those attending have been noted.



Caring for Our Planet: Thought for September, Season of Creation

The 'Season of Creation' is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. **The season runs from September 1 to October 4**, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Bishop John Arnold has sent us a message for this Season. Here is part of what he says:

My dear brothers and sisters,

There is no doubt that we are becoming much more aware of the damage that we have done, and are continuing to inflict, on the Earth, our common home, and the damage that is affecting the people most, in many of the poorest countries of the world, who have done least to cause it. They are enduring the worst events of seasonal change where crops are ruined and

agricultural land turned to desert...

It is clear that every one of us has a role to play, through simple adjustments to our daily lives, to a change in our routines and priorities.

Today we turn to prayer. We must ask for the knowledge, the insight and understanding of the dangers we face. And we must ask for the Grace to make progress in uniting the determination of politicians, industry and science in caring for our brothers and sisters and our common home.

Let us pray together, in this Season of Care of Creation, that God will show us the way and give us the strength and determination to achieve all that He is asking of us in caring for our common home.



As we start another school year, not really sure about what the future will bring, we do well to pray: 'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's reflections on the Lord's Prayer. Part Nine: Forgive our debts as we forgive others.

There are two parts to this request, both tremendously important.

Some people go through life for years carrying the weight of guilt, perhaps arising from a minor incident which has led to misunderstandings and a deep mistrust of others, including family members or fellow workers. When someone eventually helps them to a realisation that they don't need to go on in that way and that they can be reconciled and forgiven,

their relief and joy is overwhelming.

A similar wonderful relief is experienced by people who have been, or imagine they have been, on the receiving end of some outrageous behaviour by another person. They store up resentment against that person until, perhaps years later, they can be brought to forgive the offender.

God loves us and is always ready to forgive us when we act against his laws, which are given to us for our own benefit. We don't always realise this and sometimes we feel that we have committed an unforgivable sin. Despite this, when we pray the Our Father we are asking that all our offences should be forgiven. And we know that God will forgive all offences, great and small.

But we have to remember the parable about the man whose enormous debt was cancelled after which he refused to cancel a tiny debt owed to him. Surely no one would behave in such an unreasonable way! Yet we have had a huge debt of sin cancelled by God and if we continue to bear a grudge against a fellow human being we are being even more unreasonable than the man in the story.

So we ask for forgiveness, which we don't deserve, and we ask for the grace to forgive others. And we resolve to look for opportunities to help other people who may be carrying the burden, either of guilt or of "begrudgery", to use a word made up by Fr Silvester O'Flynn which seems to express that state of mind perfectly!