



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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## 29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 18 October 2020 World Mission Sunday

### HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY	12 noon	(St John de Brebeuf & Companions/St Paul of the Cross)
TUESDAY	12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	
THURSDAY	12 noon	(St John Paul II)
FRIDAY	12 noon	(St John of Capistrano)
SATURDAY	12 noon	(St Anthony Mary Claret)

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. It opens again at 6.40 pm on Saturday evening for the first Mass of Sunday at 7.00 pm.

### My dear Parishioners and Friends,

As I write this, the media are full of speculations about Greater Manchester. Will we be going into tier 3? What is going to happen about visiting homes, places of work, pubs etc? One thing is clear: places of worship will not be affected. These will remain open.

That is a great tribute to our welcomers and also to those of you who have attended. The care taken in ensuring that our churches are safe places to visit has paid off. **Churches are seen as among the safest places to be** if a person is out during this pandemic. So a big 'Thank you' once more to those who are helping here at Our Lady of Grace. Thank you also to the three who have recently volunteered to

provide cover when needed. I would be glad though to bring a few more volunteers on board as well!



Something remarkable happened a week ago. A teenager, born in London in 1991 and who died in Milan in 2006 at the age of fifteen, was beatified. He is **Blessed Carlo Acutis**. The millennial generation already has a Blessed!

By all accounts Carlo Acutis was a normal, handsome and popular boy, a natural jokester who enjoyed making his classmates and teachers laugh. He loved playing football, video games, and he had a sweet tooth.

He was a very devout child, growing in love for the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary. He made his First Holy Communion when he

was seven and from then on rarely missed an opportunity to go to daily Mass. **He was a wizard with computers and put his talents to good use.** He created a website which catalogued Eucharistic miracles and he helped anyone who needed it with anything digital.

Blessed Carlo used his first savings to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man he often saw on the way to Mass. This was not an isolated incident. His funeral was packed with many of Milan's poor residents whom Carlo had helped, showing that the generosity he had extended to the homeless man on his way to Mass had been offered to many other people as well.

Carlo died of Leukemia. During his final weeks he offered his suffering up for the Pope and for the Church.

If and when he is canonised, it is expected that he will be named patron of the internet.

Last Sunday **Pope Francis** called Blessed Carlo Acutis 'a witness of Christ for younger generations'. He invited young people to look to the late teenager as a model of holiness, describing him as 'a young man in love with the Eucharist'. Blessed Carlo, said the Pope, shows young people that 'true happiness is found in putting God in the first place and serving Him in our brothers and sisters'. Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!



Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection for **CAFOD's Family Fast Day**. You gave £830 here in church and some of you donated directly on line. If you missed out last week, there are a few envelopes still there at the back of church.



**Today is World Mission Sunday.** This day is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It's a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression. We are all invited to join in this special day.

We are all called to share God's love. As **Pope Francis** put it in his message for World Mission Sunday:

*'The Church continues the mission of Jesus and sends us everywhere so that, through our witness and the proclamation of the Gospel, God may continue to manifest his love and transform hearts, societies and cultures.'*

On this day, through prayer, reflection and material help we express our support of missionaries in all continents who are striving to live and preach the Gospel among those who have yet to receive it. **There should be a collection today for the Missions. Since that is not possible, we will send for the Missions whatever is given loose today in the buckets at the back of church.**



Copy for the **2021 Year Book** must go to the printer this week. If you are responsible for a group or activity in the parish, please send me up-to-date details by email or post, whether there are changes or not.



Regarding **live streaming of the Mass and other liturgies** from Our Lady of Grace church, I am looking at an alternative source and should have firm information shortly.



The funeral Mass for **Nora Geraghty** is next Thursday at 10.00 am. National conditions lay down that no more than thirty people may attend funerals. The list of those who wish to attend Nora's Requiem is **now full**.



Isn't it striking – and sad – that among all the concerns felt and expressed during the present pandemic, there is little or no mention of God and prayer?

It is good to remember a famous saying of St Teresa of Avila, whose feast day was last Thursday. She had many ups and downs in her life but

she could say in all confidence:

*Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. Though all things pass, God does not change. Patience wins all things. But he lacks nothing who possesses God; for God alone suffices.*

Keep up your good work!

**Fr Allen**

### **Fr Dearman's reflections on the Creed -**

#### **1 THE FATHER ALMIGHTY**

Jesus came not to destroy the Jewish Law but to fulfil it. So our Christian Creed begins with a strong affirmation of the Jewish belief in God as the all-powerful Creator.

In our world, where there is so much religious hatred, we can rejoice that we share this major part of our faith with all those who believe in a loving Creator.

"I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible."

There is a hint of what is to come in that word 'Father'. This is the Father to whom Jesus prayed and about whom he spoke so often. He is the root and origin of everything. So to him goes all the credit for the work of creating the world, the things we can see and the even more important things we do not see.

This short statement about the Father is the prelude to a long section that deals with the Son, and the relationship between the two. After that will come a short section about the Holy Spirit and a declaration of our faith in the Church.