



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

30th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 25 October 2020

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

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

MONDAY	12 noon	(St Chad & St Cedd)
TUESDAY	12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Simon & St Jude, apostles
THURSDAY	12 noon	
FRIDAY	12 noon	
SATURDAY	12 noon	

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,

This day, 25 October, was a red-letter day in 1970 – exactly fifty years ago today. **Many thousands travelled to Rome from England and Wales to witness Pope St Paul VI canonise the Forty Martyrs.** Very many went from the Salford diocese. After all, it had been the miraculous cure of a Blackburn lady from cancer that made the day possible.

People had waited a long time for the canonisation of the Forty Martyrs. Some thought the happy day might never come. Now their fears were proved groundless. Rome had moved slowly, but surely.

Who are these Forty? Well, Pope Leo XIII had beatified sixty-two English and Welsh martyrs in the late 1800’s. Then, in 1929, Pope Pius XI

beatified another one hundred and thirty-six. Six years later he canonised St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More.

In 1960, the bishops of England and Wales sent a letter to Pope St John XXIII. They asked permission to re-introduce the cause of a selected group of forty of the English and Welsh martyrs. **The forty are representative of the Catholics of their time.** They include men and women, priests, religious and lay-folk, nobility and poor. **Among them are priests who served in what is now our diocese of Salford: St Ambrose Barlow, St John Southworth, St Edmund Arrowsmith.** Their canonisation came as the climax to much patient work and fervent prayer.

Pope Paul said the martyrs would help us in “the arduous

and long journey” towards unity. They professed their faith very clearly. Protestants of today are not responsible for the past. We do not hold them to be so. In fact, many Anglicans and Protestants of today would have felt the force of anti-Catholic laws themselves, so much closer have they come to Catholic doctrine.

The martyrs were on trial for two main reasons. First, they held the Pope to be head of the Church. Second, they believed in the Mass. These objective truths need to be mentioned. A person can die bravely in a wrong cause. We might admire his fortitude. Subjectively, he is convinced he is right. He might even be called a “martyr for conscience.” But to say that our own martyrs were “martyrs of conscience” is to side-track the issue. They died for the Pope and the

Mass. Other things were incidental.

The martyrs also gave a true example of charity. One after the other, at the time of death, they forgave their executioners. They prayed for those who were urging their deaths. They "gave their lives for their friends" – but also for those who called them enemies.

Our enemies today are those who would bring about a Godless society. They go by different names: humanists, secularists, materialists, and so on. They would overthrow the Christian values on which our culture is based. Pope Paul pointed to this important issue. He saw the martyrs as outstanding champions of true humanism: humanism, that is, based on man's relationship with God. The martyrs put religious values first. By doing so they gave witness to human dignity and freedom. "Man does not live by bread alone."

Forty Martyrs, pray for us and give us courage!

Today, we should have unveiled and blessed a plaque in the Sacred Heart chapel, honouring the Forty Martyrs on this 50th anniversary of their canonisation. Unfortunately, the firm responsible for making it have let us down. Hopefully, it won't be long delayed.



A BIG THANK YOU to the children of Our Lady of Grace school. They have all made and signed beautiful big cards, sending their love and prayers to Fr Dearman and me and to all parishioners. Here's wishing them and all their teachers a very happy mid-term break.

Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection for **World Mission Sunday**. You gave £584.10p. You also gave another £153 for **CAFOD's Family Fast Day**, bringing that total to £983.



The funeral Mass for **Kevin North** is next Thursday at 10.00 am, and that for **Francis O'Reilly** is next Friday at 10.00 am. National conditions lay down that no more than thirty people may attend. If you wish to come, you should contact the families.



If it's not a silly question, what are you doing for Christmas? More to the point, will you be sending cards, giving presents? What about Advent calendars, diaries, religious calendars for 2021?

Many of you made use of the piety stall here at Our Lady of Grace for these and other items. Unfortunately, diocesan orders are that parishes must not open their piety stalls. This is to reduce the danger of spreading the virus by people crowding together handling goods and cash.

Here is a suggestion. The Cathedral Centre bookshop (CTS) in Salford has a large stock which you can look at on line: www.cathedralcentrebooks.com You can place your order and the manager will post the items directly to you. If you prefer to browse, the shop is open Monday to Friday but at the moment by appointment only. So if you wish to visit the shop, get in touch by phone 0161 817 2208 or email bookshop@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Next year God willing things will be different. Our piety stall will again be up and running. Meanwhile, take care and keep safe.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's reflections on the Creed -

2 SON OF GOD

The Second Person makes his appearance. And as in the Gospel of St John, we reflect on the meaning of Sonship before coming to his Incarnation.

"I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages."

In the Gospels we read about Jesus frequently praying to his Father, showing a relationship of loving trust, rather like the ideal relationship between a human parent and child, though infinitely more intense. The Father's voice is heard saying "This is my beloved Son."

Our poor human brains can more or less cope with this, but when it comes to the actual birth of the Son from the Father, we flounder. In God there is no before or after. God is outside time. But of course, if God created our universe he must have been present at its beginning, 'before all ages'. And what the Creed is telling us is that the Father/Son relationship was in existence at that moment.

The early Church had to maintain the infinite status of Jesus as truly Son of God in the face of all attempts to portray him as some sort of human or superhuman being. We can confidently pray to him as someone who can really help us with his supreme power.