



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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32nd SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 8 November 2020

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
TUESDAY	St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
WEDNESDAY	St Martin of Tours, Bishop
THURSDAY	St Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
FRIDAY	Weekday
SATURDAY	Weekday

The church is open every day for private visits and prayer

Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 4.00 pm, **Saturdays** from 12 noon to 3.00 pm, and **Sundays** from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Who is the most unpopular person in Britain just now? Those in high places have to make difficult choices based on the evidence as they see it. The Church encourages us to pray that our leaders will be blessed with wisdom to make the right choices. But we have every right to disagree with their choices. And the Prime Minister's decision to forbid public worship is a very bad one.

As **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** put it: *Despite profound misgivings it is important that we, as responsible citizens, observe these Regulations, which have the force of law... We do this in solidarity with so many others on whom are being imposed restrictions which impact severely on their lives and*

livelihoods. It is also important to recognise that these Regulations are not an attack on religious belief.

However, they do demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the essential contribution made by faith communities to the well-being, resilience and health of our society. At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help.

Former prime minister Teresa May spoke in the House of Commons: *I want to make one point about public worship, echoing the concerns of others. My concern is that the Government today making it illegal to conduct an act of public worship, for*

the best of intentions, sets a precedent that could be misused by a Government in future with the worst of intentions, and that has unintended consequences.

We who have suffered for many generations under the English penal laws, and Christians in other countries today, are well aware of that danger.

Our Lady of Grace church will be open every day. Times are given above. Meanwhile, we look forward to the day when public Masses will be allowed. Already we are half a week through the lockdown.



Cardinal Nichols also encourages us all to join in prayer each evening at six o'clock for an end to the pandemic:

We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21 November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic.

The Prayer Vigil he mentions is an hour of Eucharistic adoration entitled 'Worldwide for Each Other'. It will be presented in eight languages including English from the **International Eucharistic Congress** committee in Budapest, Hungary. To take part, register at corpusdomini.iec2020.hu



What has been so impressive during the past months is the way people have looked after one another. I have seen countless examples of family and friends looking out for those more vulnerable and caring in so many ways. I have also received offers from parishioners who are anxious to help in any way they can, with shopping, dog walking, etc. If you would like help, or know someone who does, please get in touch with me.

Many of you have also been delivering the weekly parish newsletter to neighbours who can't get out, and family members have also been printing the newsletter for their elderly relatives. If anyone would like the newsletter delivered, again please let me know. A growing number now receive it by email each week. If you would like to join them, just send me an email request.



Sister Joan O'Gorman who runs the food bank we support has sent a glowing

letter of thanks to our parishioners. She writes:

Thank you so much for your ongoing and faithful generosity to our Food Bank in Radcliffe and Bury. I always feel that each donation is given with care and thoughtfulness.... Thank you too for the generous cash donations. I feel too that you are making sacrifices to help us.

In Radcliffe we are now working closely with Trinity Baptist Church and Corrie Gardeners Community Group. These two groups of people stepped forward immediately to help me in the Food Bank at the beginning of the first lockdown when I was left with only two Caritas volunteers because of age and health issues. We worked so well together and as the needs increased and multiplied - a decision was made that we make our partnership more formal. We have taken the name Trinity as we are three groups and also because we are using Trinity Church building and have recently purchased a Container which is parked in the church car park. This has become our permanent home since the church reopened though we do use the church to see people privately.

A fuller version of Sister's letter is available in church, as is a revised order form for **Traidcraft** goods.



Good news about live streaming from Our Lady of Grace! We hope to have it in place early in December. Meanwhile, there are plenty of resources on the internet.

With love and prayer,

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's reflections on the Creed -

4 THE INCARNATION

"For us men [that is, human beings] and for our salvation he came down from heaven." Not physically, of course, but in the words of St Paul he lowered himself, humiliated himself to accept the condition of a slave. And why? Purely out of love for all of us and pity for our fallen state.

"By the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." In those few words our Creed expresses the reality of what happened at the Annunciation and at Christmas. The Holy Spirit will be considered later, but here he played an essential part in the conception of Jesus, so that Jesus could legitimately be called the Son of God made Man. Also essential was the role of Mary, the first of only two human creatures mentioned in the Creed. And in one word we are reminded that by God's extraordinary grace she fulfilled that role while remaining forever a virgin.

The Creed now takes for granted all that we know from the Gospels about the life of Jesus and skips immediately to the Crucifixion. We can be amazed at the humanity of Jesus and inspired by his divinity, but the essential thing for our Faith is the combination of these two natures in the one Person who was and is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever!