



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

Phone/Fax: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:  
[www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk](http://www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk)

Parish Email:  
[john.allen@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:john.allen@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

Diocesan web page:  
[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

## 33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 15 November 2020

### CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY	(St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop)
TUESDAY	(St Elizabeth of Hungary/St Hilda/St Hugh of Lincoln)
WEDNESDAY	(The Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and St Paul)
THURSDAY	Weekday
FRIDAY	Weekday
SATURDAY	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**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.

**Sundays** from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.

### **My dear Parishioners and Friends,**

As if the Covid-19 pandemic wasn't enough, the past week has brought good and bad news affecting both Church and State. We have much to consider and to pray about.

Last week also, I mentioned that what has been so impressive during the past months is the way people have looked after one another. Family and friends are looking out for each other and for those most vulnerable in so many ways. That has also been the case in our local schools, primary and secondary.

Both staff and students have shown that they can adapt to the new situation in which we find ourselves. The challenges are great but on the whole classes have

managed to make good progress.

Our Lady of Grace church continues to be open every day. Times are given above. I have noticed a few families calling into church on their way home from school before we close at 4 o'clock. That is very much to be encouraged. Fathers, mothers, what about it? Our Lord is here and is very glad to welcome you. It would be good to see our Year 3s and 4s making a visit as they prepare for first Communion.



Hopefully we shall soon be able to come together for Mass in our churches. Meanwhile, here is a reminder of where to find Mass and other services on the internet or TV:

**churchservices.tv**

**walsingham.org.uk**

**EWTN** from the internet and by satellite TV. On Sky, 588.

### **lourdes-france.org**

The Catholic Bishops Conference website is **cbcew.org.uk** It has an online directory of churches in England and Wales streaming Catholic Mass live.

Locally,

### **salfordcathedral.co.uk**

and many others. There is also a local connection with Bishop Mark Davies: **shrewsburycathedral.org**

We hope to stream live from Our Lady of Grace next month. Meanwhile, we are lost for choice as above!



For those occasions when we can't be in our churches, an act of **Spiritual Communion** can help us keep Christ at the centre of

our lives as we worship and pray at home. Yes, we long for the Blessed Sacrament, and we can still call into church when it is open. However, we can still make a spiritual communion even if we have to worship and pray at home.

We can use our own words or use prayers like this one written by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century:

*My Jesus, I believe You are really present in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all else and I desire to receive You in my soul. As I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come into my heart at least spiritually. I receive and embrace You as if You have already come. I unite myself wholly to You. Do not permit me to be ever separated from You.*



Recently, I came across a letter entitled *Facing Change with Courage and Vision*. It was written by **Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa**, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. I think you will agree with his analysis of the present situation:

*I believe it can be said that this disaster, which has paralyzed the life of the church and the world, has brought us back to the truth about us: Humans are fragile. Today we can do things that until recently seemed impossible and unreachable in scientific, economic and commercial matters. Scientific progress, in short, makes us more powerful and opens us to ever greater and wider perspectives in all areas of our personal and social lives. We trust more and more in our strengths and*

*abilities. We feel almost invincible.*

*And then comes along a virus that upsets all our certainties. In just a few days, everything has either collapsed or been called into question — the entire global economic system, including global trade and finance; international, personal, social relations; and more. Fear has taken over from that sense of power. We have lost trust, we are afraid of all forms of contact and, above all, we are afraid of what the future holds for us — full of uncertainties for health, work, children, parents. Confidence in our own strengths is called into question and we suddenly feel helpless.*

*This new situation brings us back to the core of our faith and invites us to trust in God. It has been all too easy to set aside our faith in the providential and all-powerful God. We thought we were the only architects of our destiny, that we did not need anything or anyone else. The reality is not so; we need God because alone we are lost. And the awareness of God's presence in the lives of human beings and the world also leads us to understand that nothing is impossible for God — he does not abandon us.*

I hope to continue with the archbishop's thoughts next week. Meanwhile, here's wishing you all a good week ahead.

**Fr Allen**

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

##### **5 DEATH ON A CROSS**

"For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate." In these few words

the Creed tells of the ghastly punishment inflicted on an innocent victim, a victim who accepted his fate uncomplainingly for our salvation. This was the destiny for which he came willingly into our world, and about which he repeatedly warned his uncomprehending disciples. The Creed mentions Pilate in order to pinpoint the historical period in which this momentous event took place, to counteract any suggestion that the Gospels were a pious fantasy.

"He suffered and was buried." That is the exact translation of the Latin words, but the English version that we now use inserts the word 'death'. Jesus really suffered the agony of crucifixion, as well as the humiliation of his passion including the betrayal of Judas and his abandonment by so many of his friends.

This is a reminder to us of the reality of the human nature adopted by Jesus. But we must also be aware that this victim was also truly the Son of God whom we dwelt upon in the earlier part of the Creed. When he 'came down' from heaven he did not leave his divinity behind. So on the Cross he was able to offer the infinitely acceptable sacrifice for the salvation of the whole world.

"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world."