



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

4th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 31 January 2021

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
WEDNESDAY	12 noon
THURSDAY	12 noon
FRIDAY	12 noon
SATURDAY	12 noon

The church is open every day

Monday to Saturday from 11.45 am to 1.00 pm

Sundays from 8.45 am to 10.00 am, 10.45 am to 12 noon.

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

News came last week that **Elizabeth Prout**, foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion and known as the '**Mother Teresa of Manchester**', has been declared 'Venerable' – a step towards canonisation. This remarkable lady deserves to be much more widely known and appreciated.

Elizabeth came to Manchester in 1849. Here she taught in St Chad's schools; in St Mary's school off Deansgate; and in St Mary's school in Levenshulme. But her major achievement was founding a religious order later known as the Sisters of the Cross and Passion.

Elizabeth was gently nurtured, refined, intelligent

and well educated according to the standards of the time. She was a delicate young woman, barely five-foot-tall and of fragile build. But she was no shrinking violet, described as '**a little woman brimful of energy and will**'. Aged 29, Elizabeth Prout was chosen by God to do a seemingly impossible thing: to found a Congregation of Religious women to bring the compassion and love of Christ to the poor. This she did over a period of sixteen years of self-sacrifice, grinding poverty and total submission to the will of God.

She died at the age of 43, her mission accomplished. She had laid the foundations of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion, an international missionary Congregation, dedicated to keeping alive

the memory of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection 'even unto the ends of the earth'. Today her Sisters minister to people as far apart as North America and Africa, Papua New Guinea and Peru, Chile and Jamaica, Argentina and Australia, Ireland and Bosnia, England, Scotland and Wales, in diverse climates and cultures. The challenges of yesterday are still the challenges of today but on a global scale.

Elizabeth was born in Shrewsbury in 1820. Her mother was a staunch Anglican, her father a lapsed Catholic. Elizabeth was baptized and brought up in the Anglican tradition. The family moved to Stone in Staffordshire where her father's job meant that the family could live comfortably. Whilst at Stone she met the Italian Passionist, **Blessed**

Dominic Barberi, who had come as a missioner to England. She became a Catholic and entered the convent of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus at Northampton. Due to illness she returned home and then made her way to Manchester looking for work. That is when she got a job teaching in St. Chad's School, at that time in Ancoats, and then in Angel Meadow, Manchester's worst slum.

Manchester in 1849 was at the height of the Industrial Revolution. The poor lived and worked in appalling conditions. Many were Catholic, famine refugees from Ireland. Children worked long hours in the mills; they could neither read nor write. Thousands were without any religious instruction. Mill girls were particularly vulnerable. Shocked by this inequality and injustice Elizabeth and a few companions were moved to do something about it.

(To be continued next week)

People in the Salford Diocese have always shown concern for those more unfortunate than themselves. The many societies formed over the years have proved that. Even today, many hundreds of volunteers, in societies like the SVP and Catholic Family Care, give their time and talents for the benefit of others.

Caritas Diocese of Salford acts as an umbrella for a number of societies in the diocese, as well as carrying out its own charitable works. Its annual report can be seen on www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/caritas-impact-report-2020/ There should be a

diocesan-wide collection today for Caritas. All loose money in the buckets today therefore will go to Caritas.



The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst offers an online series of sessions for young adults (18-30 years old) on human sexuality and relationships. The "Set Free Summit" is led by a number of speakers from around the world, building on St John Paul II's writings. It takes place (online) on six Sundays from 7 February to 14 March, 4-5.30pm. Each session involves a talk, sharing in small groups and a general Q&A. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free/>



On behalf of all of us, may I congratulate our oldest parishioner, **Mrs Anna Hughes**, who was 99 on 23 January. In response to the many greetings and flowers etc. she received, she wants to say 'Thank you for remembering me'. In her native Italian language, we wish her 'cento di questi giorni' – 'may you have one hundred of these days' – and more!



During the coming week, equipment will be installed to enable **live streaming** from Our Lady of Grace church. Keep an eye on the parish website towards the end of this week to see when live streaming will begin.

And at the end of a week which has seen the Covid death-rate top 100,000, do please ensure that you and your families keep safe and well.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's reflections on CHARACTERS FROM THE BIBLE - 2 - SAINT MARY OF MAGDALA

The Gospel says that Jesus cast out seven devils from Mary. This experience transformed her life completely. She was not merely grateful to the one who had cured her. From that moment on she loved him and became totally dedicated to him.

When most of the followers and friends of Jesus had understandably run away, Mary was standing at the foot of the Cross with the Apostle St John and a group of women including Mary the Mother of Jesus. They all shared the agony of seeing him pour out his lifeblood for the salvation of the world.

After the Sabbath Mary was one of a group going to anoint the body of Jesus in the tomb, which to their amazement was empty. When the others had all gone away Mary could not tear herself from the tomb.

Then she met a man who spoke to her, addressing her as 'Woman'. She had no idea who he was until he spoke again. This time he called her 'MARY!' By her love and sheer persistence she became the first person to witness the reality of the Resurrection!