



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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5th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 7 February 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	12 noon (St Jerome Emilian/St Josephine Bakhita)
TUESDAY	12 noon [10.00 am Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Gibsey – family list only]
WEDNESDAY	12 noon St Scholastica
THURSDAY	12 noon (Our Lady of Lourdes)
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,

'I was so happy to be able to watch the Mass at 10am and I watched it at noon as well.'
That was one of several messages that came on Friday last. Appreciative notes came also from Ireland, USA, Canada and the Isle of Man.

Yes, on Friday we began **live streaming** from Our Lady of Grace church! Access is easy via the parish website. Simply go onto the parish website, click on 'Live Streaming' and you will see the list of upcoming streams. I hope this will be a great help to all parishioners but particularly to those who are sick or housebound.

It isn't easy during this time of lockdown to let people know of this live stream. If you are on Facebook, could you use your social media to put the

news around? I'm sure that would be appreciated by lots of people. Thank you.

A timely legacy from the estate of the late **Gerard and Stella Clewarth** has covered the cost of installation. May they rest in peace!



*Last Sunday's newsletter told how **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. It gave a short account of her life prior to coming to Manchester. The story continues here:*

As the number of Sisters increased, Elizabeth, at the requests of the local clergy, taught in a number of schools: St Chad's in George Leigh Street, Ancoats, St Chad's infants' school,

Dyche Street, Angel Meadow, Manchester's worst slum, and in St Mary's in Royton Street, Deansgate.

She opened four new schools, in new parishes: St Joseph's in Goulden Street, Ancoats; the parish day school and a convent boarding school in St Mary's, Levenshulme; and the girls' day school in St Ann's, Ashton-under-Lyne. Asked to take charge of a school near St Helens, Elizabeth moved there in 1855. She started another school for poor children there, and her Sisters took charge of yet another new school.

In 1851 Elizabeth had founded her order with two companions at 69 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill. Anti-Catholic feelings were still running high after the restoration of the hierarchy in the previous year and the

opening was deferred from 25 March to 15 August. Her biographer described how:

Hardly unaware of this ultra-Protestant reaction to the Catholic revival, Elizabeth Prout had unobtrusively and courageously been founding her religious institute. At twenty-nine years of age in 1849-50, she was the youngest, and the first, Catholic Englishwoman to found a religious order in nineteenth-century England.

In 1852, in St. Chad's parish, with the support of the Passionist Father Gaudentius, Fr Croskell of St Chad's and Bishop William Turner of Salford, the first seven sisters of the Institute of the Holy Family received the religious habit. Two years later, six of the first sisters professed their religious vows in St Mary's church, Levenshulme. As leader, Elizabeth was given the name **Mother Mary Joseph of Jesus**.

(To be continued next week)



Thursday next is the feast of **Our Lady of Lourdes**. It's also the world day of prayer for the sick. We have a special reason for praying for the sick in these times of COVID.

Pope Francis wrote recently how the pandemic has 'highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to

look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.'



The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst offers an online series of sessions for young adults (18-30 years old) on human sexuality and relationships, based on St John Paul II's writings. It is on six Sundays from today 7 February to 14 March, 4-5.30pm. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free/>



Thank you for your contributions last Sunday to **Caritas Diocese of Salford** which came to £458.62.



The live streaming has been installed by a local man from Tottington, **Mr John Coles**. He takes great pride in his work and insists on it mirroring the beauty of the house of God. **Mr Mike Lepki** takes care of the parish website and he has uploaded the live stream – which gives me the opportunity to thank him for his quiet, unobtrusive work every week. His email by the way in the parish Year Book should read: mikelepki@outlook.com



Ash Wednesday falls in the week after next. Mass that day will be at 12 noon and 7.00 pm, with blessing and distribution of ashes at both. It might be prudent to book. If you wish to come, please pick up a booking form as you leave Mass today, and return it. Or send me an email. Do please take great care.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's reflections on CHARACTERS FROM THE BIBLE

3 - URIAH AND NABOTH

These two men were separated by nearly 300 years, but their destinies were very similar. They were both innocent victims of kings who misused their power, putting their own comfort before another person's life.

What makes the two kings' behaviour all the more shameful is that they were appointed to rule over God's own people, in effect taking the place of God in relation to their citizens.

King David stands out among the rulers of the Chosen People, so much so that when the Son of God became man he was acclaimed as 'Son of David'. Yet David had his faults and the Bible does not try to hide them. He wanted Uriah's wife and gave orders leading to Uriah's death.

King Ahab and his wife Jezebel stand out for the opposite reason, as immensely cruel and ruthless in pursuit of their greedy objectives. They brought about a shameful death for Naboth because he refused to sell his vineyard to the king.

The two stories both take a surprising turn when the guilty kings see the error of their ways and repent. God forgives them, showing himself to be a truly merciful God who is always ready to forgive us even the most terrible sins when we find the humility to repent.