



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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PALM SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2021

THIS IS HOLY WEEK

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

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| MONDAY | 12.00 noon | Monday of Holy Week |
| TUESDAY | 12.00 noon | Tuesday of Holy Week |
| WEDNESDAY | 12.00 noon | Wednesday of Holy Week |

HOLY THURSDAY 7.00 pm **MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER**

GOOD FRIDAY: Day of fasting and abstinence

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| 10.00 am | Stations of the Cross |
| 3.00 pm | LITURGY OF THE PASSION |

A collection is taken on **Good Friday** for the **Church in the Holy Land**. The collection helps to maintain the Holy Places and is also used in the educational and healthcare work of the Church in that region. Please be generous on Friday. (See also note overleaf)

HOLY SATURDAY 8.00 pm **EASTER VIGIL MASS**

EASTER SUNDAY **MORNING MASSES as usual at 9.00 and 11.00 am**

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Because of the lockdown restrictions, admission to the Masses and other services from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday must be by ticket only. The Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday is already full. So too is the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday afternoon.

As we go to press there are still a few places available at the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday and at the Masses on Easter Sunday. You can apply for tickets for these by completing the form to be found on line and at the back of church. **Please do not turn up without a ticket as you may find the church has already been filled.**

This week the church is open
Monday to Wednesday from 11.45 am to 1.00 pm
Thursday to Sunday 15 minutes before the times given above
and 15 minutes after the end of the services

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

This time last year we were in a complete lockdown. Churches were closed. Holy Mass and other services could only be followed by

watching on YouTube or live streaming. This year is somewhat better. Churches are open and people can be present, even though numbers have to be restricted. Now that we are live streaming from Our Lady

of Grace, I hope many of you who are shielding at home will still be able to take part in our Holy Week Masses and services.

For those without website access, there are special service sheets which cover all the days from Holy

Thursday to Easter Sunday inclusive. These can be found on line on the diocesan website. If you can't access the net, let me know and I will make sure you receive copies.

Copies are already sent for every Sunday to quite a number of parishioners who are unable to get to Mass. Again, if you would like to receive these sheets each week, just let me know.



I have often thanked you for your regular and generous support of the parish. Many of you use the offertory envelopes in which to put your donations. Others pay directly through the banks, either monthly or weekly.

If you use the envelopes, new boxes are now ready. You will find them arranged in alphabetical order on the tables near the exit. **Please pick up your envelopes as you leave today.** They will be needed for the new tax year starting on 6 April.

If you don't already use the envelopes, you might consider joining – especially if you are a taxpayer. There is no commitment to give any fixed amount. You can give whatever sum you like, and as often as you wish. If you are a taxpayer and sign the appropriate form, the parish can then claim back the tax you have paid on your donations. This is a very useful source of income for the parish, so if you are interested, let me know, or phone Vincent Allerton on 0161-773 3318. Vin does a great job looking after all our gift aid administration (as well as the choir of course) and the parish owes him a big vote of thanks.



While on the subject of money, I must draw your attention to the collection for the Church in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land faces a second desperately quiet Easter. Next week is normally incredibly busy, but for the second year in a row, there are no visitors - meaning no income for the majority of local families. The Covid crisis is still in full swing; there is still no government unemployment support, and the lack of a coherent vaccination programme for Palestinians means the health, welfare and unemployment situation is likely to remain the same deep into 2021.

Only this week I heard from the Rector of the Latin Patriarchate Seminary of Jerusalem, **Fr Yacoub Rafidi**. Years ago, he did part of his training with me at St Dunstan's, Moston, before his ordination. He wrote: *'These days are difficult days on all levels: there are political, health and financial difficulties.*

The pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a fundamental factor in the life and work of Christians in Palestine, especially in Bethlehem area, and now there have been no pilgrims or tourism for a year, so things are very, very bad.'

I know you will be generous in giving on Good Friday.



This week is so special for all of us. There are many things that might distract us. We need to keep focussed on the things that really matter. I hope you will find much peace and blessing in these coming days.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on Psalm 21

3 God heard the poor man when he cried

On Good Friday the Church, the mystical Body of Christ, passes spiritually through the gates of death in union with Jesus, who died for us physically on that day. After a quiet day of reflection with Christ in the tomb we come to the high point of the Church's year, when we join triumphantly with him in celebrating the glory of his rising from the dead.

The mood of Psalm 21 changes abruptly from the verge of despair to a cry of joy. God has not despised the poor man who cried to him for help from the depth of his distress. "They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him!"

The joy of Resurrection is not something that we should keep to ourselves. "All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord." God is the ruler of all nations.

Nor is this joy something that passes away quickly, like so many of our earthly victories. "They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come. These things the Lord has done!"

May we all experience the joy of our Saviour's Resurrection - which could not happen if he had not first died for us.