



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

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER 2 MAY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	12 noon Sts Philip and James, apostles
TUESDAY	12 noon The English Martyrs (Exposition until 2 o'clock)
WEDNESDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday
THURSDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday
FRIDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday
SATURDAY	11.00 am First Communion Mass Year4W: families only

The church is open every day

Monday to Saturday from 11.45 am to 1.00 pm (except next Saturday)

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

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Warmest congratulations to the first class of Year 4 children who yesterday made their **first Holy Communion**. Next Saturday it will be the turn of the rest of the children in Year 4. We all wish them well and will remember them in our prayers.



Tuesday of this coming week will be the feast day of **the English Martyrs**. On this day in 1535 three Carthusian monks were put to death at Tyburn in London, the first of many Catholic martyrs. 42 of these martyrs have been canonised and a further 242 declared blessed. But the number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or suffered harsh persecution for their faith in

over a century and a half cannot be reckoned.

They were very many, and they came from every walk of life: among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men. We remember them today for the example they gave of constancy in the faith, and for their courage.

There will be **exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on this feast day of the English Martyrs, from the end of the 12 noon Mass until two o'clock.



Although in this country we seem to be getting the better of the Coronavirus, other countries are suffering greatly. I'm sure you will want to join in the **marathon of prayer** requested by **Pope Francis**.

The Holy Father asks us to go in spirit to famous shrines of Our Lady in different parts of the world and to say the rosary each day during May, asking for the end of the pandemic.

The 'marathon' began yesterday in England at the shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. As well as seeking the end of the pandemic, each day has its own specific prayer intention. The intention for Walsingham was 'those who have died from Covid'. Here are details for the coming week:

Sunday 2 May – Shrine of Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary at Elele in Nigeria – for those who have not been able to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones.

Monday - Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland – for

those infected with the Coronavirus, and all the sick.

Tuesday – Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Israel – for expectant women and their unborn babies.

Wednesday – Blessed Virgin of the Rosary in Namyang, South Korea – for children and adolescents.

Thursday – Our Lady Aparecida in San Paolo, Brazil – for young people.

Friday – Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage at Antipolo in the Philippines – for families.

Saturday - Our Lady of Luján in Argentina – for communication workers.

The 'marathon of prayer' is inspired by an episode recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (12:5), when the whole Church joined together in fervent prayer.



Last week I said that the contents of the Starving World box during May will go to **Aid to the Church in Need**. It's good to know how ACN has been active in India during the present awful pandemic. In some States, the Church has been practically the only help for people. Priests and sisters have distributed food and clothes and many Church-run schools have become quarantine centres. ACN has supported the priests and sisters ministering in one of the world's most populous countries.

A number of priests and sisters have themselves caught the coronavirus and some have died while doing their pastoral work during the pandemic.



Another casualty of the pandemic is our annual procession and **crowning of Our Lady**. Although this can't take place in church this year, might you find a simple way to honour Our Lady at home? **Rachel Bulman**, a wife and mother of four children, has posted some excellent ideas on www.wordonfire.org You will like them!



Pope St Paul VI wrote a letter about the month of May, 'a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to **Mary, the Mother of God**. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth.

'For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne.'

The Holy Father described how the month of May pays honour to the Blessed Virgin 'and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise. For what other reason do we continually turn to Mary except to seek the Christ in her arms, to seek our Saviour in her, through her, and with her?'

May Our Lady of Grace help us all to have a happy month.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

THE VISITATION

There is a wealth of food for our prayerful reflection in the Gospel account of the Visitation. When Mary learns that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child, she loses no time in going to her aid. The Holy Spirit makes his presence felt as the two mothers greet each other and their babies react in a way that prefigures their future relationship. In the Magnificat Mary praises God for his plan in which lowly people like her are uplifted and given a role in the salvation of the world.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 Mary set out and went to a town in the hill country of Juda
- 2 She went into the house of Zechariah
- 3 As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb
- 4 Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- 5 Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb
- 6 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
- 7 He has looked upon his lowly handmaid
- 8 He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly
- 9 He protects Israel his servant, remembering his mercy
- 10 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months

Glory be