



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

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 9 MAY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday
TUESDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday
	10.00 am Funeral Mass for Margaret Noonan: family only.
WEDNESDAY	12 noon Easter Weekday/Sts Nereus & Achilleus
THURSDAY	The Ascension of the Lord: Mass Wednesday 7.00 pm, Thursday 12 noon
FRIDAY	12 noon St Matthias
SATURDAY	12 noon Our Lady of Grace

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,

All children in Year 4 have now made their **first Holy Communion**. Yesterday was the turn of Year4W and despite the chill outside it was another heart-warming day in church. We congratulate the children and pray that they will grow ever closer to Our Lord.

Thanks are due to those who helped the children to get ready for their big day: to parents and families, to the staff in our primary school, and to the parish catechists – and to the parishioners who have been praying for these little ones.

Children in Year 3 are now preparing for *their* first Holy Communion at the end of

June and the beginning of July.

Meanwhile, Year 8 children in St Monica's are preparing for their **Confirmation**, to take place in the autumn of this year. **Sister Linda** of the Daughters of Divine Charity is helping the RE staff in St Monica's and the priests and catechists of the contributory parishes in the preparation of the candidates.



We continue this week with 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 Coronavirus pandemic. Here are details for the coming week:

Sunday 9 May – Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto, Italy – prayer for seniors.

Monday - Our Lady of Knock, Ireland – for people with disabilities.

Tuesday – The Virgin of the Poor, Banneux, Belgium – for the poor, the homeless, the economically distressed.

Wednesday – Shrine of Our Lady of Africa, Algiers, Algeria – for people who live alone and those who have lost hope.

Thursday – Our Lady of the Rosary, Fatima, Portugal – for prisoners.

Friday – Our Lady of Health, Vailankanni, India – for scientists and medical research institutions.

Saturday - Our Lady Queen of Peace, Medjugorje, Bosnia – for migrants.

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.



By the time you read this letter, we will have the final results of Thursday's elections. No doubt political analysts will be going over the results and giving their opinions. How much we need good leaders with positive vision!

There is a prayer in the Roman Missal which matches our times. It's a prayer for the Nation, 'that, **through the wisdom of its leaders and the integrity of its citizens**, harmony and justice may be assured and lasting prosperity come with peace.'

So much will depend on whether leaders and citizens alike keep to the Christian ideals that once formed this country. As the historian Sir Arthur Bryant put it, when he described the coming of the first Christian missionaries to these islands:

The most important of all Britain's invaders were those who came armed only with a cross, and the faith and courage that cross gave ... (They) converted a savage tribal people and their rulers to Christ's gentle creed of love and sacrifice, and to the revolutionary belief, inherent in Christianity, that every individual was a soul of equal value in the eyes of God.



I forgot to mention last week the collection for the **Priests'**

Training Fund. This collection is taken each year on Good Shepherd Sunday. It helps to pay the bills for our students in seminaries as they prepare for service as priests in the Salford diocese. So far the collection along with donations has realised £288.05.

Those of you who use offertory envelopes will probably have used already the special envelope for this collection. If you don't have offertory envelopes, please put your donation in a plain envelope and mark it 'Priests' Training Fund'. Thank you. The fund will remain open for another couple of weeks.

There is something more important even than this collection, and that is to increase the number of students for the priesthood. Are you setting the right tone in your families at home which would encourage children to think of a religious vocation? Vocations in the wealthier counties are decreasing. At the same time, vocations in poorer countries are increasing. What does that tell us?



It's so easy to forget to turn mobile phones off when we come in for Mass. That was shown this week. Phones went off every day except one! Please try to remember.

Has anyone lost a ring? One was found in church a couple of weeks ago and it has not yet been claimed.

And a nice note to end on: Saturday next is our patronal feast day, **Our Lady of Grace**. May she smile graciously on us all, and during this month bring us even closer to her Son.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

CHRIST IS BORN

When a woman is in labour she is in pain, but once she has given birth the pain is overcome by joy that a child has been born into the world. So spoke Jesus at the Last Supper. As we reflect prayerfully on Our Lady's pain and joy we can experience a kind of mini-Christmas, at any time in the year. We can share her feelings as the shepherds and then the wise men come to see her Son.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 While they were in Bethlehem the time came for her to have her child
 - 2 She gave birth to a son, her first-born
 - 3 She laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn
 - 4 There were shepherds abiding in the fields
 - 5 I bring you news of great joy, which shall be for all the people
 - 6 Today a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord
 - 7 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth
 - 8 They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in the manger
 - 9 Wise men came from the east, and saw the child with his mother Mary
 - 10 Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart
- Glory be