



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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PENTECOST SUNDAY 23 MAY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	Mary, Mother of the Church
TUESDAY	12 noon	St Bede the Venerable
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Philip Neri
	10.00 am	Funeral Mass for Bridget Murphy: family list only
THURSDAY	12 noon	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
	10.00 am	Funeral Mass for Eamonn Boyle: family list only
FRIDAY	12 noon	Weekday
	9.45 am	Funeral Mass for Rose Power: family list only
SATURDAY	12 noon	Weekday/St Paul VI
SUNDAY NEXT	Trinity Sunday	

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,

Today we should wish each other ‘Happy Birthday’. For today is **the birthday of the Church** – the Body of Christ, the People of God. And we are that Body, that People. So ‘Happy Birthday’ to one and all.

The Church began when Peter and the other apostles were almost literally blown onto the streets of Jerusalem by the gale-force power of the Holy Spirit. They had been sheltering – shielding like so many of us have been doing during the year of lockdown for fear of the Coronavirus. They too had been in fear of their lives. They were waiting, as Jesus

had told them to wait, for the coming of the Holy Spirit. But when the Spirit came, what a difference! These dispirited, fearful individuals threw the locked doors open and emerged as a Spirit-filled and fearless body of men, united in their love of the Lord Jesus and relaying the Good News of the Gospel to people of many nationalities in their own language. What a day that must have been!

So today is a day to remember and rejoice. To remember our own baptism and confirmation, and to rejoice that we are members of the Church of Jesus Christ. It’s a good day too to pray for the Year 8 pupils from St Monica’s High School who are getting ready

for their confirmation this coming autumn.



We continue during the coming week our **prayer for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic**. Pope Francis has asked us to go in spirit to famous shrines of Our Lady in different parts of the world and to say the rosary for that intention each day during May. Here are details for the coming week:

Sunday 23 May – Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap in Canada – prayer for law enforcement and military personal, and for firefighters.

Monday – Our Lady of Lourdes in Nyaunglebin,

Myanmar – for those who provide essential services.

Tuesday – Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu, Malta – for teachers, students and educators.

Wednesday – Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico – for workers and entrepreneurs.

Thursday – Mother of God, Zarvanytsia, Ukraine – for the unemployed.

Friday – The Black Madonna of Allotting, Germany – for the Holy Father, bishops, priests and deacons.

Saturday - Our Lady of Lebanon – for consecrated men and women.

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.



Hasn't it been good this past week to see some of the restrictions of the pandemic lifted? I had hoped to give more details of how we might observe our greater freedom in church. However, our bishops have reminded us this week that *'the general principles of creating a safe environment in places of worship and their ancillary buildings are not abandoned. Recognition of the continuing circulating presence of the virus in the population means that certain preventative practices will still be required.'*

Several parts of our diocese of Salford have been badly affected by the virus variant. For the time being therefore we will continue to be vigilant, as our Bishop John Arnold urges us, and continue our present policy of

carefully welcoming and sanitising. Hopefully this will be reviewed after 21 June. Congregational singing is still not allowed but cantors and small choirs are.

Mobile phones have only rung during Mass on two days this week. Do please be sure to turn yours off when you come into church.



Your financial support of the parish during the past year is greatly appreciated. Many of you have chosen to give a regular sum by direct transfers through the bank. If you have given to the parish in the financial year that ended on 5 April – **either using the offertory envelopes or by bank transfers** – there is a letter for you, ready for collection on the tables at the back of church, from this weekend onwards. Please collect your letter. It will save the cost of postage. If you think you should have a letter, but you can't find one, please let me know.



Sister Joan has followed up her appreciation of your gifts to the food bank by a poster for Pentecost. It is on the notice board in the outer porch.

I make her wishes for this time of Pentecost my own: *As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit – the One who answers our cry – once again may I thank you for your faithfulness and for your tremendous generosity and for the difference your kindness makes to so many lives ... May God bless each one of you.*

You will find printed copies of today's Pastoral Letter at the back of church.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

In the story of the Prodigal Son, the father says that his son 'was dead and has come to life, was lost and is found'. In this mystery we contemplate Jesus being lost for three days and then found, foreshadowing his death and resurrection. St Joseph appears for the last time in the Gospel story. He and Our Lady have an agonising experience which must feel like a bereavement, but which ends in a joyful reunion. There is also a sense of bewilderment which parents often face as they see that their growing child has different priorities from their own.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 When Jesus was twelve years old, they went up for the feast
- 2 When they were on their way home, Jesus stayed behind
- 3 When they failed to find him they went back looking for him everywhere
- 4 They found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors
- 5 They were astounded at his intelligence and his replies
- 6 My child, why have you done this to us?
- 7 Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?
- 8 They did not understand what he meant
- 9 He went with them to Nazareth and lived under their authority
- 10 His mother stored up all these things in her heart

Glory be