



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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY 30 MAY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	12 noon The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
TUESDAY	12 noon Anniversary of Consecration of Our Lady of Grace church
WEDNESDAY	12 noon (Sts Marcellinus & Peter)
THURSDAY	12 noon Funeral Mass for Mrs Irene Heath
FRIDAY	12 noon
SATURDAY	12 noon St Boniface

On Saturday there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from the end of Mass until 4.00 pm

SUNDAY NEXT – Corpus Christi

The church is open every day

Monday to Saturday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm (note this change)

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

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Sixty-five years ago today the then Bishop of Salford, **George Andrew Beck**, consecrated our parish church of Our Lady of Grace. It was a ceremony lasting for about three hours. It also coincided with the silver jubilee of the church, opened in 1931.

The parish priest in 1956 was Fr Denis O'Brien. It is worth recalling his words:

The priests and people of Our Lady of Grace thank Almighty God on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of their church for all His graces and blessings bestowed upon those who are still with us. Looking back

over these years and turning back the pages of history to the foundation of our parish [in 1889] we hold the priests and people, living and dead, in grateful remembrance.

As we gaze on our beautiful church we are all conscious of the kindly feeling which prevails upon our fellow citizens of Prestwich and we see a spirit of true Christian charity linking us with our good neighbours.

The greatest day in our history was 31st May 1931 when the church was blessed and opened by Dr. Henshaw, Bishop of Salford, and today we recall to mind with gratitude our benefactors who through their generosity and labours

made it possible for this great work to be achieved.

Today we renew the dedication of ourselves and our homes to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of God, to whom our church is dedicated. To Almighty God for all His blessings we offer our heartfelt gratitude and love.

The parish log book gives the opening of the church by Bishop Henshaw as 14 June 1931, so perhaps Fr O'Brien's date is a fortnight too early. But the consecration of the church was on this date, **30 May 1956**.

A church celebrates the anniversary of its consecration as a Solemnity.

Normally this would take precedence over other days of saints. But we can hardly take precedence over the Most Holy Trinity! Nor over Our Lady's feast of the Visitation which is tomorrow. So we will celebrate the anniversary of the consecration on Tuesday.

Today, **Trinity Sunday**, is nevertheless a very good day to remember the consecration of our church. The twelve candles burning in front of the consecration crosses remind us that this building has been separated from a common and profane to a sacred use, the worship of God. We must make sure it remains 'the house of God and the gate of heaven'.



New information came this week from the Bishops' Conference about the opening up of churches. One main change is that stewards (welcomers) are no longer needed when the church is open for private prayer. **I propose to gradually extend our weekday opening hours, beginning this week from 11.45 am until closure at 4.00 pm.** However, hand sanitising must still take place and masks should be worn.

Funeral Masses are permitted with attendance up to the Covid secure capacity for each church. This means that, depending on family numbers, a funeral Mass may safely be the ordinary parish Mass.



We finish tomorrow our part in the world **prayer for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic** when we have gone in spirit to famous shrines of Our Lady in different parts of the world

and said the rosary for that intention each day during May. Here are details for the final two days:

Sunday 30 May – Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii, Italy – prayer for the Church.

Monday 31 May – *Our Lady's shrine in the Vatican Gardens* - for the end of the pandemic and the resumption of our social and economic life.

Bishop John Arnold will lead the Rosary from the Shrine of Our Lady of Manchester, at St. Mary's, Mulberry St, the Hidden Gem today from 1.00-2.00 pm (not livestreamed).



Free of charge, the diocesan Department for Formation is offering online evenings on the **Gospel according to Mark**. Each presentation will be from 7.00 to 8.30 pm on the next three Wednesdays, beginning on 2 June. They will include time for discussion and questions.

Topics are *The Humanity of Jesus in Mark* (with Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp), *The Disciples in Mark* (with Fr Michael Deas) and *The Little People in Mark* (with Fr Michael Winstanley SDB).

To reserve a place on one or all the evenings and to receive the Zoom link in advance, email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk



Do please try to take part in the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday, from the end of Mass until four o'clock. It will be a good preparation for the feast of Corpus Christi, next Sunday.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Traditionally the Rosary used to skip over Our Lord's public life up to the time of his Passion. Pope St John Paul II bridged this gap by introducing **the five Mysteries of Light** with which our lives can shine in the reflected brilliance of the Sun of Righteousness, just as the lives of so many people were lit up by seeing Jesus during his public life.

We last heard about St John the Baptist when he was in his mother's womb. Now he dominates the scene with his preaching the need for repentance and his fierce denunciation of injustice and hypocrisy, especially by the rich and powerful. Jesus appears and amazingly submits to receiving John's baptism. God the Father and the Holy Spirit make their presence felt and Jesus is thus commissioned to his career of healing and preaching.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 Prepare ye the way of the Lord
- 2 He who is coming is mightier than I
- 3 He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- 4 Jesus came to be baptized by John
- 5 I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?
- 6 It is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness
- 7 Jesus was baptized
- 8 The heavens were opened
- 9 The Spirit came like a dove and alighted on him
- 10 This is my beloved Son: listen to him

Glory be