



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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12th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 20 JUNE 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	St Aloysius Gonzaga
TUESDAY	12 noon	Sts John Fisher & Thomas More
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	(St Etheldreda)
THURSDAY	12 noon	The Nativity of St John the Baptist
FRIDAY	12 noon	
SATURDAY	11.00 am	First Communion Mass Year 3C (families only)

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm

Saturdays from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm, 6.45 pm to 8.00 pm Sundays from 8.45 am to 12 noon

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

It's **Fathers Day** today. Here's wishing all fathers in the parish a very happy day. Fathers can be very smart. Like the one whose son (who had just passed his driving test) asked for the loan of his dad's car. 'When you get your long hair cut we'll talk about it,' said Dad. The boy objected: 'But Our Lord had long hair.' 'Yes', replied Dad, 'and He walked everywhere.'

As kept today, Fathers Day is a commercialised American import, and of fairly recent origin. Some countries still keep the centuries-old Catholic custom of holding Fathers Day around the feast of St Joseph, 19 March. The honour due to St Joseph, the foster father of Our Lord, was then shown to fathers of families.



We celebrate two famous fathers next Tuesday. One was the spiritual father of his diocese of Rochester, **Bishop St John Fisher**. The other was father to his family in Chelsea, **St Thomas More**.

A contemporary of St John Fisher described how he 'has such a love of his flock as never to leave the care of it, ever feeding it by word and example'.

St Thomas More, Chancellor of England, was renowned as a loving father and family man. He had four children by his first wife. When she died, he married a widow and raised her daughter as his own.

Both John Fisher and Thomas More refused to

accept King Henry VIII as head of the Church. Henry had them both executed.

The other bishops caved in to Henry's demands, as did Parliament. It is worth recalling Thomas More's words in Westminster Hall when he was condemned to death. He pointed out that just as the city of London could not make a law against England, neither could England make a law against Christ's universal Catholic Church. No-one could replace the Bishop of Rome as head of the Church on earth.

St Thomas continued: 'I have, for every bishop of yours, above one hundred; and for one Council or Parliament of yours (God knoweth what manner of one!), I have all the Councils made these thousand years.'

And for this one kingdom, I have all other Christian realms.' His last words on the scaffold were: 'I die the King's good servant, but God's first.'



It seems appropriate that Fathers Day should also be observed today in England and Wales as a '**Day for Life**'. A message from the Bishops' Conference tells us that this day, 'inaugurated by Saint John Paul II, presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages'.

Saluting the 'extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying', the bishops warn of proposed legislation.

'Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalisation of 'assisted suicide' in our country. It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?' There is now a Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on so-called 'Assisted Dying' and it is only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons.

'This year's theme for Day for Life focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. The online resources are produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.' The resources mentioned can be found on www.cbcew.org.uk



On the next two Saturdays we will have the happy celebrations of **children's first Holy Communions**. Next Saturday will be the turn of Year 3C and the following Saturday the turn of Y3S.

First Communions will be during Holy Mass at 11.00 am. There will be no 12 noon Mass therefore on the next two Saturdays.

Unfortunately, restrictions on numbers have not been lifted. Each child may be accompanied by two adults and any siblings. The Masses will be live streamed for general viewing.



You may like to know how people are following the **live streaming of Masses**. In the past four weeks the parish web page has been accessed 6911 times. There have been 1457 viewings of Mass: 973 live viewings and 484 archive viewings. Impressive numbers!

To access the live stream simply go to the parish web page and click where it reads 'Click here for details of upcoming or recently held services'.



How many have been watching the Euros this week? I got a withering look from one person I asked the question. Others have been in their element, including many of our children. Overheard in school: 'Why was Cinderella such a poor football player? Her coach was a pumpkin!'

Please don't shoot me!

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

THE TRANSFIGURATION

This is truly a Mystery of Light – the dazzlingly bright light which filled the human body of Jesus with the glory which was his as the Son of God. The disciples who were privileged to witness this glory were thus encouraged and strengthened to face the pain and sorrow that would come on them as Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus was seen in conversation with two giants of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah. His Resurrection would be a new and permanent Exodus. We ask Our Lady to help us to bear our sorrows as she did, strengthened by the belief that we are destined to rise in glory with her Son.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 Jesus took Peter, James and John
- 2 He went up the mountain to pray
- 3 As he prayed his clothes became dazzlingly white
- 4 Moses and Elijah were talking with him
- 5 They spoke of the Exodus which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem
- 6 The disciples saw his glory
- 7 It is good for us to be here
- 8 A cloud came and overshadowed them
- 9 This is my beloved Son: listen to him
- 10 They told no one of what they had seen

Glory be