



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

13th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 27 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 Irenaeus
TUESDAY	St Peter & St Paul Mass Monday 7.00 pm Tuesday 12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	(The First Martyrs of the Roman Church)
THURSDAY	12 noon	(St Oliver Plunkett)
FRIDAY	12 noon	
SATURDAY	11.00 am	First Communion Mass Year 3S (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,

You will have noticed from the above that Tuesday is the solemnity of **Saints Peter and Paul**. In more normal times this would be a holy day of obligation. During the pandemic, however, as for Sunday Mass the obligation is lifted.

Even so, we will celebrate the first Mass of the solemnity on Monday evening at 7 o'clock. This is a favourite day in our Catholic calendar and one we like to celebrate. Given the sanitising and social distancing observed in our churches, they are as safe as, if not safer than, many other venues.



Tuesday will of course be a big day in St Peter's basilica in Rome. The basilica is built over the tomb of St Peter. He was martyred in the circus of Nero and buried in the nearby cemetery on the Vatican hill. You will have seen pictures of the obelisk in the middle of St Peter's square. That would have been one of the last things St Peter saw; it stood then in the middle of Nero's circus.

The feast day of Saints Peter and Paul is always a most joyful one in the basilica. The floor is strewn with bay leaves, and as people walk over them and crush them a beautiful aroma fills the air. The basilica comes alive with lights and music, and the ancient statue of St Peter, its right foot worn smooth by the countless kisses of pilgrims

over the centuries, is clothed in an elaborate red cope. Let's hope that the pandemic doesn't stifle the celebrations too much this year.



We are taken up very much in these days with our children and the sacraments. Yesterday, children in Mr Cooper's class made their **first Holy Communion**. Next Saturday, it will be the turn of the children in Mrs Sinclair's class. Our congratulations go out to them, as do our prayers that they will grow ever closer to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Meanwhile, over in St Monica's high school, children in Year 8 are preparing for their **Confirmation**. That will

happen later this year, in November at a date to be decided.

On the Thursdays of the past six or seven weeks, I have been in St Monica's with **Sister Linda** from the Daughters of Divine Charity convent in Rochdale. She has given our children a good understanding of what Confirmation is about.

We will follow up on Sister Linda's work with a few sessions in the parish hall during the autumn term. These will be on Sundays, between the morning Masses. I am looking for volunteers to help give the children their immediate preparation at that time. **Do please tell me if you think you could help.**



While on the subject of children and schools, I'm reminded of the teacher who asked her class to take some time on Sunday, when they got home from Mass, to write a letter to God and to bring the letters to school on Monday. One little boy wrote: 'Dear God, we had a lovely time at church today. Wish you had been there.'



The diocesan almanac describes '**Caritas Salford**' as the social action agency of our diocese. It states that the mission of Caritas is '*to serve the poor and to promote charity and justice in our area. We have a proud history of supporting people in poverty or vulnerability through diverse projects. Inspired by the Gospels and teaching of the Church we put faith into action, provide a practical response, promote integral human development and call for a better world.*'

Caritas Salford has taken over a number of well-known and well-loved charities that have been active in the diocese for years but it has perhaps not always been regarded with the same warmth that they enjoyed.

Patrick O'Dowd has just been appointed as the new director of Caritas Salford. Here's wishing him well, and hoping that with his already extensive and sympathetic experience in the diocese he will raise the profile and support of this diocesan agency.



I am pleased to pass on this message:

Pauline, Peter Knowles and family would like to sincerely thank our church family and friends for all the thoughtful messages, tributes, beautiful cards and Mass intentions we have received on the passing of our dear mum Irene Heath. They have been a source of great comfort to us all.



Every day except Friday in the coming week, we keep the memorials of people who died for the Catholic faith. They include on Wednesday the **first martyrs of the Roman Church**. They were 'an immense multitude' of men, women and children who died in the first great Roman persecution under the Emperor Nero.

On Thursday we will remember **St Oliver Plunkett**, Archbishop of Armagh. He was tried, condemned and executed in London in 1679. Saturday is the feast of **St Thomas, apostle**.

May you have a good week.

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

THE EUCHARIST

This fifth and last of the Mysteries of Light forms a link with the Sorrowful Mysteries which come next. Jesus fulfilled his promise of giving us the Eucharist in the Last Supper. Only a few hours later he would suffer the agony in the garden, and within 24 hours he would give his life in sacrifice for the salvation of the world.

At the Last Supper he gave himself to us as food and drink to nourish and sustain our spiritual life. Even more importantly he gave us the possibility of offering his sacrifice with him, bringing the joys and sorrows of our daily lives so that they are joined to his supreme sacrifice and become acceptable to God the Father. The body that he gives us in the Mass is the same body that was born of Mary, though now glorified and immortal.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 Do not labour for the food which perishes
- 2 Work for the food of eternal life
- 3 I am the bread of life
- 4 He who comes to me shall not hunger
- 5 He who eats this bread will live for ever
- 6 I will raise him up at the last day
- 7 I have given you an example
- 8 Love one another as I have loved you
- 9 This is my body given for you
- 10 This is my blood poured out for you

Glory be

Fr Allen