



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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14th SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 4 JULY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	(St Antony Mary Zaccaria)
TUESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Ellen McDonnell
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	
THURSDAY	9.30 am	Funeral Mass for James Christopher Makin: family list only
	12 noon	
FRIDAY	12 noon	(St Augustine Zhao Rong and companions, martyrs of China)
SATURDAY	12 noon	(Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

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,

The new Health Secretary has indicated that we should be free from most lockdown restrictions after 19 July. That would be very welcome.

However, not everything has been negative during the past months. Numbers attending **baptisms and first Communions** have been severely cut down, but that hasn't necessarily been a bad thing.

In fact the families who have had children baptised in this period have commented on how intimate and prayerful the baptisms have been. That has been my experience too. Where the family has requested, the

baptisms have been live streamed so that other family members and friends could take part from a distance. But the people who have been present in church have enjoyed the experience better than they might have done if they had been surrounded by a crowd.

Families are of course welcome. But is this something to consider for future baptisms?



Last Monday **Pope Francis** reflected on a world 'still struggling to emerge from the dramatic crisis caused by the pandemic'. He went on:

This scourge has tested everyone. Only one thing is more serious than this crisis,

and that is the risk that we will squander it, and not learn the lesson it teaches. It is a lesson in humility, showing us that it is not possible to live healthy lives in an unhealthy world, or to go on as we were, without recognizing what went wrong.

Even now, the great desire to return to normality can mask the senseless notion that we can go back to relying on false securities, habits and projects that aim exclusively at pursuing wealth and personal interests, while failing to respond to global injustice, the cry of the poor and the precarious health of our planet.



I'm grateful to the two people who have offered to help as **catechists** this coming autumn for the children in Year 8 presently preparing for their Confirmation. If you would also like to offer your services please let me know.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the children in Year 3S who yesterday received Our Lord in **Holy Communion** for the first time. As for baptisms, family members who could attend were very few. However, this made for a very peaceful and prayerful celebration. The Mass was live streamed so that others could watch wherever they lived.

On Friday last the children received the **Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)** for the first time. I was reminded of the story of little Tommy who confessed that he had thrown a stone at his friend Johnny. 'That was a very misguided thing to do,' said the priest. 'It wasn't misguided at all,' said Tommy. 'I hit him.'



The Salford diocese has been well blessed over the years by the quality of its **hospital chaplains**. They have indeed given most devoted service to patients and staffs.

Once upon a time, the chaplains were informed when a person belonging to their denomination was admitted to hospital. This is no longer the case, even though on admission some hospitals may still ask patients to which denomination they belong.

That information is regarded as very confidential – so confidential that ridiculously not even the chaplains are

told! **The patients themselves, or their families, have to ask for a chaplain. Otherwise the chaplain will not know you are in hospital.**

Please keep this in mind if you or a family member are admitted to hospital.



A letter from the diocesan finance office informs us that the **diocesan levy** for Our Lady of Grace will remain at 25% for the coming year. This means that a quarter of our offertory income goes to the diocese to help cover the costs of central administration, leaving the parish with just 75% of our offertory income.

It gives me yet another opportunity to register appreciation for the way you have continued to support the parish during the past very difficult year.



Have you been watching the Euros this week? Our Lady of Grace once had its own **football team**, formed in the 1930s as Fairfax Juniors, changing its name in 1946 to simply Our Lady of Grace.

They played in the Bury Sunday School League, the Manchester Catholic League and the Salford Amateur League. They moved from the Heys ground to Willow Road in the 1948-49 season and ran two elevens.

Mr W Cooper was organizing secretary for most of the years. The Club was wound up in the mid-1970s. Are there any players still around? How about sharing your memories?

Have a winning week.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

GETHSEMANE

This first Sorrowful Mystery brings out how terrible mental suffering can be. Nobody has yet laid hands on Jesus, yet he is in a state of extreme agony. The thought of the pain and humiliation that he is to suffer brings Jesus to ask his Father if there may after all be some other way to save the world. But his natural repugnance gives way to a steely determination to follow his Father's will, and to bear everything with dignity. The evil in our world cannot be overcome by half measures. Nothing less than the supreme sacrifice will do.

The friends and close followers of Jesus cannot even keep awake while he suffers this agony. We ask Our Lady for the alertness and strength of will that may be needed to overcome the evils that threaten us in the world of today.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 Jesus went to a small estate called Gethsemane
- 2 My soul is sorrowful to the point of death
- 3 He withdrew from them and knelt down and prayed
- 4 Father, take this cup from me; but let your will be done, not mine
- 5 An angel came from heaven to give him strength
- 6 In his anguish he prayed even more earnestly
- 7 His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood
- 8 Could you not watch one hour with me?
- 9 You should be praying not to be put to the test
- 10 The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak

Glory be