



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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16th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 18 JULY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	
TUESDAY	12 noon	(St Apollinaris)
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	(St Laurence of Brindisi)
THURSDAY	12 noon	St Mary Magdalene
FRIDAY	12 noon	St Bridget of Sweden
SATURDAY	12 noon	(Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary/St Sharbel Makhluof)

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,

When is an opening-up not an opening-up? When it's during a pandemic. Although some restrictions have been lifted, a lot of caveats remain. Our bishops are taking a cautious approach. They say we should always consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus.

These are some of the points made:

- # **Churches** can be left open and unsupervised for individual prayer
- # **Hand sanitiser** should be available
- # People should be encouraged to use **QR codes** or other means of identity
- # **One-way systems** no longer necessary but people

should avoid crowding together **Note:** here **we will for the time being keep to the one-way system**, but with this difference: those in the centre benches who are nearest to the side aisles are asked to approach the altar from the side aisles and return by the side aisles.

- # The presence of **welcomers** is valuable, who may also help to clean frequently touched places
- # **Holy water stoups** should be empty
- # All **usual ministers** for Mass can resume: servers, readers, extraordinary ministers of Communion

- # **Offertory collection** may be resumed **Note:** Here we will continue with the buckets by the entrances
- # The **Sign of Peace** remains suspended

Holy Communion will be under one kind. Recommended in the hand but those wishing to receive on the tongue may do so.

Our Bishop, John Arnold, recommends that we continue to wear **face masks** in the church and that for the time being there should be **no congregational singing**.

Our Bishop has asked us to pass on this message: *Bishop John is urging all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to*

somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated.



There is no restriction now on the numbers who may attend **baptisms, weddings and funerals.**



The rules for **social distancing** no longer apply, though people must still feel safe to come to church. So from Saturday 31 July we will re-arrange the seating in church. At present, two out of every three benches are roped off. This will be reduced to every other bench, thus extending the capacity of the church.

However, people will be able to pick up a paper on entering the church which will say **Please leave a space.** They can then put this beside them on the bench, to allow a space for distancing.



Confessions – the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) – will resume on **Saturday 31 July.** Wipes will be available inside the confessional and penitents are asked to wipe down the ledge where they may have rested their hands, and then place the wipe into the receptacle provided inside the confessional.



Opening up the **parish hall** for parties and socials raises particular difficulties at this time. It would seem prudent to wait for a couple of months to see how the virus is being controlled. We will look again

at the situation at the beginning of October. Meanwhile, the hall will be open only for restricted meetings, though we hope to resume refreshments after Sunday morning Masses shortly.



Pope Francis has instituted a **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.** Identifying with the more senior members of our society, he says “The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!”

This World Day will be kept **next Sunday, 25 July.** I hope to say more about it next week. Meanwhile, in his message for the Day, **Pope Francis** draws our attention to the things grandparents can do by passing on their memories and by their prayer.

I’m reminded of the little girl listening to her grandfather reading a story to her. She reached up and touched his wrinkled cheek, and then stroked her own cheek. She asked, ‘Granddad, did God make you?’ ‘Yes, dear,’ he said. ‘God made me a long time ago.’ ‘And did he make me too?’ the little girl asked. ‘Yes, he did, but only just a little while ago.’ The little girl felt their faces again with her hand and said: ‘God’s getting better at it, isn’t he?’

Fr Allen



Deb, Grace, Maureen and all the Makin family would like to thank everyone who attended the Mass for Chris, who have sent so many Mass cards and messages of sympathy. We

have been completely overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness. God bless you all. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Fr Dearman’s Reflections on the Rosary:

THE CROWN OF THORNS

This ‘crown’ must have caused Jesus yet more intense pain and loss of blood. Yet the mockery of the soldiers must have been extremely painful as well. They knew that he was acclaimed as a king, and now he was reduced to the status of a common criminal. This brought out the ugly side of our fallen nature in them, as they beat him and made jokes about his kingship. Jesus bore it all in silent submission, thus showing us a wonderful example of how to deal with insults.

Pilate presented Jesus to the crowd, hoping that they demand a reprieve, but they had been persuaded to bay for him to be crucified.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 The soldiers led him to the Praetorium
- 2 They twisted thorns into a crown and put it on his head
- 3 They dressed him in a purple robe
- 4 They said ‘Hail, king of the Jews’ and slapped him in the face
- 5 They took the reed and struck him on the head with it
- 6 Pilate washed his hands and said ‘I am innocent’
- 7 Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe
- 8 Behold the man!
- 9 Crucify him! Crucify him!
- 10 So Pilate handed him over to be crucified

Glory be