



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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17th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 25 JULY 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	Sts Joachim & Anne
TUESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Stephen Fraser
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	
THURSDAY	12 noon	St Martha
FRIDAY	12 noon	(St Peter Chrysologus)
SATURDAY	12 noon	St Ignatius of Loyola

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 4.00 pm

Saturdays from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm Sundays from 8.45 am to 12 noon

Confessional times: Saturday 11.00-11.45 am, 6.00-6.45 pm

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

National Grandparents’ Days are nothing new. A number of countries celebrate them. What Pope Francis has done **is** something new. He has instituted a **World Day**.

The Holy Father recalled how Our Lord said: ‘I am with you always.’ He continued, these ‘are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. 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 is kept **today, Sunday 25 July**, the

Sunday nearest to the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Our Lady and therefore the grandparents of Jesus.

The Pope has announced this special day against the background of the pandemic which has swept the world. He says this has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially ‘for us elderly persons’. We need to remember that Our Lord is always close to us.

Pope Francis asks the question: ‘What is our vocation today, at our age? [It is] to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones.’

And how is that to be done? By dreams, memory and prayer. ‘Our **dreams** of

justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions. In this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship.’

The Pope sees dreams as intertwined with **memory**. ‘I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message.’

And finally, ‘**prayer**. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: “The prayer of the elderly can protect the world,

helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others” ... Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need.’

Pope Francis sees the connection between generations and how important that is. Many grandparents these days find themselves in great demand, as families often struggle to balance work and home. Such grandparents are in a providential position to fulfil the vocation Pope Francis sees for them.

There are others though who can feel isolated, even forgotten. This special day can help all of us to remember how we are gifts to one another. What better day then to pray for grandparents and the elderly and to show our love for them?



Our schools have now broken up for the summer holidays. We have much to thank our devoted school staff for. They have kept the school going in very difficult circumstances. We wish all the pupils and staff a very happy and a safe holiday time.

You may have heard, by the way, of the canny teacher who sent a note home with all the class. It read: ‘If you promise not to believe everything your child tells you happens in the class, I promise not to believe everything your child tells me happens at home!’



Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, we will still for the time being **keep to the one-way system** on

entering and leaving the church.

At **Communion** time, 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.

Confessions – the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) – will resume next 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.

There will be no offertory collection. Instead, there are buckets by the entrances for your **offerings**.

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**.



The rules for **social distancing** no longer apply. However, from tomorrow 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 if they wish.



Graham will resume the **Line Dancing** sessions next **Thursday 29 July**. Come along at one o’clock. For parties and socials, we will look again at the situation at the beginning of October.



I wish all grandparents a Happy Day.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman’s Reflections on the Rosary:

CARRYING THE CROSS

Jesus willingly accepted a cross, the symbol of utter degradation, and made it the symbol of glorious triumph. The Roman procedure was not only to put their disgraced criminals to death but to make them carry the instrument of torture through the public streets and thus to maximise the humiliation. Jesus accepted this and told us that we too must carry our own crosses. In this way we are invited to follow him along the road that leads to glory.

Our Lady must have witnessed the painful journey. In her own way she too was carrying her cross of suffering with her Son. We pray to her for the strength to bear our burdens in the same spirit of joyful acceptance which led her to Calvary.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 They led him out to crucify him
- 2 Carrying his cross he went out of the city
- 3 They made Simon of Cyrene carry the cross behind Jesus
- 4 Large numbers of women mourned and lamented for him
- 5 Weep not for me but for yourselves and for your children
- 6 Two others were led out to be executed with him
- 7 If anyone wants to be my follower he must renounce himself
- 8 He must take up his cross daily and follow me
- 9 Shoulder my yoke and learn from me
- 10 My yoke is easy and my burden light

Glory be