



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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18th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 1 AUGUST 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	(St Eusebius of Vercelli/St Peter Julian Eymard)
TUESDAY	12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St John Mary Vianney
THURSDAY	12 noon	(Dedication of Basilica of St Mary Major)
FRIDAY	12 noon	The Transfiguration of the Lord
SATURDAY	12 noon	(Sts Sixtus & Companions/St Cajetan/Memorial BVM)

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,

Last Sunday we were thinking of grandparents and the elderly, and the good they can do for their families, for the Church and for society in general. It is with regret therefore that we must record the demise of Our Lady of Grace **Over 60s Club**.

Before the Covid lockdown, Mrs Mary Withers along with a small team had struggled to keep the Club going. We must be very grateful for the efforts they made and the good they have done over many years. The lockdown however has taken its toll and those in charge of the Club feel they cannot continue any further. I respect them for their

decision and thank them warmly for the contribution they have made to the life of our parish and beyond.

Now we must think of the future. Over 60s Clubs began many years ago when society was rather different from today. Is a different kind of Club needed these days? If so, what would it be like?

Is the name ‘Over 60s’ too restrictive? Why not be open to younger people? What about a **Friendship Club**? Such a Club could embrace people of different ages, with activities tailored to suit all the members.

Coming out of the lockdown restrictions gives us the opportunity to **think anew and aim for a fresh start**. Do

please think hard and come up with ideas. What kind of a Club do people want? What kind of activities? What was good about the Over 60s Club? How can we improve on it?

We might also ask those questions about the parish in general. What are we doing that is good? Where can we improve?

Please send your ideas in to the presbytery by email or letter. Hopefully we will have something up and running in the autumn.



Having asked for ideas, I’m reminded of the experience of a friend of mine, a PP in Manchester. A parishioner approached him and

described what should be done in the parish for the youth. The PP replied, 'You have my full approval and support to get to work on that.' 'Oh no', the man replied, 'I'm not volunteering. You see, I'm an ideas man myself!' That was in south Manchester. Here in Prestwich, we have a strong tradition of **team work**.



This year's **New Dawn Conference** will be live streamed from Walsingham during the coming week, from **Monday to Friday, 2-6 August**. It is described as a Spirit-filled Conference where 'the beauty of the Church can be seen in all her splendour'.

The New Dawn Team say 'we invite you, your family and friends to join us from the comfort of your own home for an anointed and spirit-filled week! With an exciting line-up of guest speakers, principal celebrants and workshops, this year's virtual conference is not to be missed. No need to register. The conference is free; however donations are most welcome!'

The New Dawn website carries all information about this Conference:
<https://www.newdawn.org.uk/2021-virtual-conference>



Please note that we have resumed the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation). Times of Confessions for the time being will be **Saturdays, 11.00-11.45 am and 6.00-6.45 pm**. 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 bin

provided inside the confessional.

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

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

This is a good time to remember that churches have been seen to be among the safest places during the Covid troubles. Thanks to our team of welcomers, we have managed to keep the church open and clean for a considerable time. We look forward now to a gradual return of people to Sunday Mass. The cleaning of benches is no longer needed but please **use the hand sanitisers** entering church.

Meanwhile, especially for the sick and housebound, live streaming provides a strong link with the church. You can find the link to the live stream on the parish website.



It has been good to see local people doing well in the **Olympics**.

St Paul had something to say about such Games: 'All the runners at the stadium are trying to win, but only one of them gets the prize. You must run in the same way, meaning to win. All the fighters at the games go into strict training: they do this just to win a wreath that will wither away, but we do it for a wreath that will never wither.' (1 Cor 9:24-25)

Enjoy the Olympics – and keep going in the real race!

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

CALVARY

As we pray the last Sorrowful Mystery we put ourselves in spirit beside Our Lady and St John, witnessing the terrible scene of her Son's final agony. When most of his followers had abandoned themselves to despair at the apparent failure of his mission, these continued to believe and trust in his promises. We unite ourselves with his sacrifice of his life for our salvation. We repeatedly ask Mary, his Mother and now our Mother, to pray for us at the hour of OUR death.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:
1 When they reached the place called the Skull, they crucified him
2 Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do
3 Remember me when you come into your kingdom
4 This day you will be with me in paradise
5 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother
6 Woman, this is your son
7 This is your mother
8 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
9 It is accomplished
10 Father, into your hands I commend my spirit

Glory be