



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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22nd SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 29 AUGUST 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	12 noon	(Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward)
TUESDAY	12 noon	(St Aidan & the Saints of Lindisfarne)
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Edmund Arrowsmith
THURSDAY	12 noon	
FRIDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Angela Sutcliffe (Read)
SATURDAY	11.00 am	(St Cuthbert)

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 11.45 am to 6.00 pm

Saturdays from 10.45 am to 8.00 pm

Sundays from 8.45 am to 12 noon (or later if Baptisms)

Confessional times: Saturday 11.45 am-1.00 pm, 6.00-6.45 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday after 11.00 am Mass until 1.00 pm.

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

It's good to see numbers at Sunday Masses gradually creeping up as more people pick up confidence. We must still though respect those who hesitate. Covid is still with us. Having said that, the church is probably a safer place than most others.



Last week I wrote a little about **St Ambrose Barlow**, one of the saints of our diocese. He was put to death because he was a priest.

During the coming week we will celebrate another martyr who had close connections with our diocese, **St Edmund Arrowsmith**. On Monday we

will also remember three very brave women who were put to death for helping priests in those sad times.

Edmund Arrowsmith was captured near Blackburn, after a desperate chase in which his horse refused to jump a ditch. He was born at Haydock in 1585. His family knew what it was to suffer for their Catholic faith. His grandfather, Thurstan Arrowsmith, was imprisoned and died in Salford gaol. His grandfather on his mother's side had also been arrested as a Catholic.

Edmund was only eight years old when the Government priest hunters raided his home. They turned everyone out of bed and tried every

bed and hole with their swords, searching for priests or evidence of them. They tied the family up, took Edmund's parents off to Lancaster gaol and left the four little children shivering in their night clothes.

To escape from the persecution, Edmund went across to Holland and Belgium, coming then to the recently founded English College at Douai where his learned uncle and priest, Dr Edmund Arrowsmith, was a professor. Ordained priest in 1612, Edmund was sent to the English mission the following year.

He came to his native Lancashire and spent some fifteen years in priestly work

in and to the north-west of the present Salford diocese, centred in Brindle between Chorley and Preston. A house in Gregson Lane, Brindle, is known as 'The House of the Last Mass'. Here Edmund said his last Mass before his final arrest. Edmund was described by a contemporary as small but 'of great innocency in his life, of great sincerity in his nature, of great sweetness in his conversation, and of great industry in his function', and always 'of a cheerful countenance'.

He was betrayed by a renegade Catholic whom he had reproved for an incestuous marriage. This person reported Edmund to a local Justice of the Peace. Warned that he was about to be arrested, Edmund set off on his horse towards Preston. He was pursued and captured and taken to the **Boar's Head Inn**, dating from the 16th century and still functioning today as a country pub on Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton. Here Edmund was locked in a cowshed while his captors took his money, went to the bar and spent it all on drink. Then they escorted him to Lancaster Castle where he was imprisoned and put on trial.

The Judge, Sir Henry Yelverton, was a Puritan and notoriously anti-Catholic. He violently threatened Edmund, saying "You shall die", to which Edmund quietly replied "And you too, my Lord, must die". The end came quickly. When the Judge read out his death sentence Edmund answered "Deo gratias; God be thanked". On 28 August 1628, as he passed through the Castle yard on his way to execution, Edmund received absolution from another

priest and future martyr, **John Southworth**, who was also a prisoner. Both were canonised by Pope St Paul VI in 1970.

Before he was hanged, drawn and quartered Edmund proclaimed "I die a constant Roman Catholic". His last words were "Bone Jesu, Good Jesus." His body was cut into four and exhibited, along with his head, on the Castle walls. One of the prison keepers at the Castle collected the martyrs' relics. The most famous is his hand, venerated in St Oswald's church Ashton-in-Makerfield.



The three brave women we remember tomorrow, Monday, are **Saints Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward**. All three were put to death for sheltering and helping priests. It is possible that St Margaret Clitherow is buried in the Salford diocese. Certain clues indicate that her body was brought to Lancashire from York and buried in Stydd Chapel at Ribchester. A visit there makes for an interesting day out.



Next Sunday, 5 September, sees the opening of the **International Eucharistic Congress** in Budapest. I will be among a small group attending from this parish. Pope Francis will be there for the closing Mass on Sunday 12 September.

This weekend is the August Bank Holiday. The weather forecast is good. Let's hope we can get out and about. Enjoy!

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

THE ASSUMPTION

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he took his human body into heavenly glory, paving the way for all of us to share that glory in our bodies. We have to wait till the great Day of the Lord for this to happen. But Jesus did not want his Mother to wait that long. Instead she was raised up at once, body and soul, to the glorious presence of God in heaven. Her glorification strengthens our hope. We ask her to give us trust in God's promise that we shall share in that wonderful privilege of hers in God's good time.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 He has put down the powerful and raised up the lowly
- 2 Christ has been raised from the dead: all men will be brought to life in Christ
- 3 A great sign appeared in heaven
- 4 A woman, adorned by the sun, standing on the moon and with twelve stars on her head
- 5 Blessed are you because you believed
- 6 Your praise will never cease on the lips of men
- 7 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am
- 8 Come, ye blessed of my Father; enter the kingdom prepared for you
- 9 You have changed my mourning into gladness
- 10 The great day of the Lord is near and hastening fast
Glory be