



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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23rd SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00	
MONDAY	12 noon	
TUESDAY	12 noon	
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
THURSDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Mr Telahun Tedola
FRIDAY	12 noon	St Ambrose Barlow
SATURDAY	11.00 am	

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,

Today the 52nd **International Eucharistic Congress** opens in Budapest, Hungary, until next Sunday. Our small group from the parish will join in the Congress events. Each day there will be catechesis, liturgical ceremonies and social meetings. Groups will be there from all five continents. **Pope Francis** will celebrate the closing Mass.



Kindly supplying in the next week will be **Fr Peter Hopkinson**, parish priest of St Peter and St Thomas More, Middleton, and **Fr Jan**

Klaver of the Mill Hill Missionaries. Both are warmly welcome to Our Lady of Grace.



In the past two weeks, we have been remembering some of the great Catholic men and women who have graced our diocese and who have given their lives for the Catholic faith. On Wednesday of this coming week, we will celebrate one of the greatest, **St Ambrose Barlow**.

I mentioned him a couple of weeks ago in connection with Moor Hall, Aughton. Ambrose was born in 1585, the fourth son of fourteen children of Sir Alexander

Barlow and his wife Mary Brereton, of Handforth Hall in Cheshire. The Barlows were strongly Catholic. Edward's grandfather had died in gaol for the Faith and his father was described as 'a true and perfect recusant Catholic'. The family lived at **Barlow Hall**. The Hall still stands. It is now the club house of Chorlton-cum-Hardy Golf Club. The fields by the River Mersey, where Edward and his brothers and sisters would have played in their childhood, are now filled with golfers.

As he grew up, Ambrose felt called to be a priest. In his early twenties he left home and went to Douai (now in France). There he was ordained a priest in 1617.

Soon afterwards, he was sent to England to work as a priest.

Fr Ambrose came to his native Lancashire and made his headquarters at **Morleys Hall** near Leigh. This house, surrounded by its moat, also still stands. One can still see there a hiding hole built to conceal a priest from the pursuivants. Morleys was to be Fr Ambrose's home for twenty-four years. From there he would go on a monthly round, hearing confessions, preaching and saying Mass in many Catholic houses. Some of those houses we know: Wardley Hall, Worsley, now the home of the Bishop of Salford; Bamfurlong Hall near Wigan; Mossock Hall; Moor Hall, Aughton (still standing); Ditton Hall, Widnes; Eccleston Hall, St Helens; Mossborough Hall, Prescott; Tuebrook House, West Derby (still standing); Birchley Hall, Billinge (still standing, and where there was a secret Catholic printing press in Fr Ambrose's time); Aughton Hall, Knowsley (still standing).

One who knew Fr Ambrose well described him as 'so mild, witty and cheerful in his conversation, that of all men that ever I knew, he seemed to me the most likely to represent the spirit of **Sir Thomas More**. His infirmities and labours were often great, but did not alter him nor rob him of his cheerfulness'. When threatened or slandered he 'entertained them with a jest, and passed them over with a smile and a nod'. He was renowned for his good humour and, though living poorly himself, for his hospitality.

Because he was a priest, Fr Ambrose was arrested and put in prison four times. Never in robust health, a few months before his final arrest Fr Ambrose suffered a stroke which left him paralysed on one side. Then, on Easter Sunday 1641, he celebrated Mass at Morleys Hall. He was preaching to his people when a mob arrived, led by the vicar from Leigh, to capture him. He was taken, guarded by sixty soldiers, to Lancaster where he was put on trial. He was promised his freedom if he would undertake not to seduce the people any more. He replied: 'I am no seducer, but a reducer of the people to the true and ancient religion.' Found guilty of being a priest he was condemned to death. He greeted his condemnation with the words 'Thanks be to God', and asked God to forgive all those responsible for his capture and sentence.

On 10 September 1641 he was hanged, drawn and quartered. His head and quarters were impaled at Lancaster Castle and at the Collegiate Church in Manchester, now Manchester Cathedral. His relative, Francis Downes of Wardley Hall, rescued the head and took it to Wardley where it has remained ever since, resting now in its recess on the stairs. Fr Ambrose was beatified in 1929 by Pope Pius XI and canonised in 1970 by Pope Saint Paul VI.

I will be concelebrating today the opening Mass of the Budapest Congress and offering it for you, the people and friends of our parish.

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Rosary:

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

In this last Mystery of the Rosary we reflect on the glory of God's heavenly home into which we are all invited, and on Mary's supreme position in that home as the Queen of Heaven. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, the things that are prepared for those who love him.' But the Scriptures do give us some idea of what it means to enjoy an eternity filled with joy. We can each use our imagination to fill out our own picture of that blessed state. But what we know for certain is that the joys of heaven far surpass even the greatest joys that we can know in our life here on earth. We ask Our Lady to help us to join her in Heaven.

Our Father

Before each Hail Mary:

- 1 At your right hand stands the queen, with pearls set in gold
- 2 Henceforth all generations will call me blessed
- 3 The Almighty works marvels for me, and holy is his name
- 4 May you be blessed by God most high, beyond all women on earth
- 5 You are the highest honour of our race
- 6 There is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home in the heavens
- 7 In my Father's house there are many mansions
- 8 Death is swallowed up in victory
- 9 O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?
- 10 And in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be

Glory be