



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

Phone/Fax: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:
www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk

Parish Email:
john.allen@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Diocesan web page:
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

25th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00
MONDAY	12 noon Sts Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions, Korean Martyrs
TUESDAY	12 noon St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
WEDNESDAY	12 noon
THURSDAY	12 noon Funeral Mass for Mr Terence Kerrigan
FRIDAY	12 noon Our Lady of Walsingham
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,

We were a little group of seven from Our Lady of Grace, in Budapest for the **52nd International Eucharistic Congress**. **Bishop Robert Byrne** (of Hexham and Newcastle diocese) joined us. He was the national delegate for England and Wales. People from eighty countries were present at the Congress.

The Congress was beautifully and lovingly organised (helped by 2,000 volunteers), with uplifting Liturgies (accompanied by full orchestras, opera singers and choirs of 2,000 voices), some inspirational talks and catechesis (with

simultaneous translation of talks into six languages), entertaining folklore and cultural events (Hungarian dancers and Gypsy bands), and all under a smiling warm sun and against a background of decent, polite people and a magnificent capital city with an heroic Catholic history.

The Congress lasted 5-12 September. At the opening Mass **1,200 children received Our Lord in communion for the first time**. I was privileged to give several dozen children their First Communion. The Church in Hungary is still recovering from decades of Communist rule after the 2nd World War. In those years,

Christian education for children was discouraged or forbidden. This Congress showed a Church springing back into new life.

Pope Francis came for the closing Mass, which I concelebrated and offered for this parish.

Our party also went to **Esztergom**, the ancient capital of Hungary, where **Cardinal (now Blessed) Josef Mindszenty** is buried. We remembered his historic visit to Salford in 1973. The next Congress will be in **Quito, Ecuador**, in 2024.



Meanwhile, back in Prestwich, our parish life must go on. It is good to

know that **Our Lady of Grace Primary School** has got off to a good start in this new academic year.

A number of our young parishioners now in Year 9 have been preparing for their **Confirmation**. We will help them with a parish programme in the next few weeks.

The Bishops of England and Wales have been meeting in the last few days. Hopefully, we will soon receive some more guidance about the further opening up of our churches and parish centres.



Thank you to all of you who sent in ideas about **future activities in the parish**. There have been many and varied suggestions. You will find them on a separate white paper, with space to record your own preferences. Please think carefully about it and return it next Sunday. We must try to make a new start after the Covid lockdowns.



Fr Gavin Landers was in our parish group at the Budapest Congress. He is chaplain to four hospitals, including the MRI. What great pastoral work our chaplains give! We must be truly grateful to them. They are often called out at all hours, day and night.

This may be a good time to remind ourselves that **patients, or their families, need to ask for the services of a chaplain**. Chaplains used to be given the names of patients coming into hospital. This is no longer the case, even though patients on admission to hospital may

be asked their faith. **Patients and/or family members have to request the chaplain via the ward's medical and nursing staff.**



On **Wednesday 29 September** we will resume our parish course, **Discovering the Catholic Faith**. The course will continue on most Wednesday evenings until next Easter. It is intended primarily for non-Catholics. We plan to hold the initial meeting face to face; after that it can be followed either via Skype or face to face, as decided. Please let me know if you would like to join this course. Would parishioners please mention it to friends and family?



Year Book 2022 time has arrived! Copy must go to the printer very soon. Let's hope that we can resume our various ministries and activities before long. Would those responsible for the various groups please email me or put in writing the entry for 2022? Thank you.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic hymns

2 – O BREAD OF HEAVEN

This popular hymn offers us much food for reflection when we visit Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Beneath this veil thou dost my very God conceal. Our Faith tells us that God – yes, Jesus, God the Son! – is present although of course we cannot physically see the Godhead. Things unseen are often more valuable than

things seen. After taking a few moments for this amazing reality to sink into our souls, we express our pledge of love and adoration and thank Our Lord for his generous concern for us as he gives himself to all ***in the form of bread.***

The second verse dwells on St Paul's exclamation, 'I live, no, not I, but Christ lives in me'. Paul felt that he was living the life of Christ rather than his own, so strongly had the love of Christ taken possession of him. We echo that statement. As baptised Christians we belong to Christ, and the more we can allow Jesus to take over our minds and souls the happier we will be. He will ***repay every grief with joy*** in him.

The next verse expresses the close ***bond of love that unites us to our living Lord.*** Rather harshly, perhaps, it says that if we do not return his love we deserve to die! But this harshness is softened when it says that we hope to be able to return **SOME** of his love. Whatever we do we can never completely match the unmeasurable love he shows to us.

The last verse of the hymn paints a wonderful picture of the bliss of heaven, where we can gaze upon Jesus ***with changeless love.*** We should have confidence that he will grant this, a confidence based on the fact that he has already given us himself in the Eucharist. As Jesus says in the Gospel, 'the one who eats my flesh will live forever. I will raise him up on the last day!'