



# OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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## 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY 'OF THE YEAR' 10 OCTOBER 2021

### HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 &amp; 11.00</b>	
MONDAY	12 noon	(Pope St John XXIII)
TUESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Vera Lindsay
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Funeral Mass for Margaret Acton
THURSDAY	12 noon	(St Callistus)
FRIDAY	12 noon	St Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)
SATURDAY	11.00 am	(St Hedwig/St Margaret Mary)

**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,**

**Bishop John Arnold** has written a pastoral letter to us on a burning topic of the day: **global warming**. He reminds us that we 'are the guardians of creation and responsible for its well-being. That aspect of our Faith is something that we have probably ignored or taken for granted'.

He sets out the problem; says that we as individuals can help to solve the problem; says it is mainly up to governments; and asks for prayers that the November meeting in Glasgow (named COP26) will produce a good result. Copies of this pastoral letter are at the back of church.

Do please take a copy and share it with family and friends.

**Pope Francis**, along with scientists and religious leaders, signed a joint appeal last Monday morning in the Vatican: '**We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children.**' The appeal spells out, in no uncertain terms, that unprecedented challenges 'threaten our beautiful common home'.



**Fr Dearman's** helpful notes on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary (distributed last week) have been warmly received. This week you will find his notes on the **Mysteries of Light**, helping us to see the Rosary for

what it is, a Gospel prayer.

In a famous sermon, **St Bernard of Clairvaux** spoke of the Son of God, the 'Eternal Word', who was born of the virgin Mary and became one of us. Before that, '*He was above our understanding ... but now he wished to be known, to be seen, to be pondered. But how, you may ask?*

*'I answer: lying in a manger, resting on his virgin mother's lap, preaching on the mount, spending the night in prayer; or hanging on the cross, the pallor of death on his face, like one forsaken among the dead, overruling the powers of hell; or rising again on the third day, showing the apostles the print of the nails, the sign of victory, and*

finally ascending from their sight into heaven.

*'Is there anything here that cannot be reflected on, truthfully, lovingly, reverently? If I reflect on any of these things, I reflect on God, and in all of them I find my God.'*

The next two Mysteries – the Sorrowful and the Glorious – will follow over the next two weeks.



At last, we will resume some **congregational singing today** at the Sunday 11 o'clock Mass. However, we ask everyone who is singing to wear a face mask to avoid spreading any droplets. Hymn books will be available, and we hope you will join in the psalm responses, Alleluia, Sanctus and Amen too.

Just a reminder: it is **recommended that face masks should still be worn in church**. Also, you are asked to **sanitise your hands** on entering and leaving the church. You may also pick up a note to put next to you on the bench, asking others to leave a space.

**Today also we will resume serving teas and coffees in the Hall after both Sunday morning Masses, thanks to team members on the rota.** The family of the late **Leo and Lily Brooks** have kindly given cakes for us today in their memory.



The **deanery retreat** for Confirmation candidates is **next Saturday 16 October** and will be held in St Michael's Hall, Whitefield, M25 8AE, starting at 10.00 am and ending with Mass at

3.00 pm. Those attending should contact Sister Linda, linda.pergega@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for the necessary forms.

Children in Year 9 who are **not** at St Monica's High School but who would like to join the Confirmation group, please let me know asap.



This month, October 2021, an **'Assisted Dying' Bill** will receive its Second Reading in the House of Lords. If successful, it will give terminally ill adults with less than six months to live assistance to commit suicide.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales invite all Catholics to respond in prayer to this serious threat to the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person.

The Bill in the House of Lords falls on the feast of St. John Paul II on 22 October. From the 14-22 October, in the lead up to the Second Reading, the bishops encourage us to unite for nine days of prayer, seeking the intercession of St John Paul II, as part of our efforts to help defeat this attempt to legalise assisted suicide.



With my love and blessing.

**Fr Allen**

**Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic hymns**

5 – ADORO TE

***O Godhead hid, devoutly I adore thee.*** This is one of the great hymns composed by St Thomas Aquinas for the newly established feast of Corpus Christi.

In the first verse the hymn reminds us that, hidden in the appearance of bread, the Son of God is truly present. Faced with this amazing reality, so great that our poor human minds cannot understand it, we simply bow before him and subject our hearts to him.

***Sight, touch and taste in thee are each deceived.***

When we look at the host, even if we touch it and receive him into our mouths in Holy Communion, our senses of sight, touch and taste are not able to tell us the wonder of who is coming to us. The one sense that really comes to the fore is our sense of hearing. We have heard the words that were spoken by the Son of God, the Word of God, and we believe that whatever he says is absolute truth. ***Than Truth's own word there is no truer token.***

The third verse directs our thoughts to Jesus on the Cross. Those who saw him hanging there, such as his mother Mary and his apostle John, could see his humanity though not his divinity. We are in a slightly different situation, in which we do not actually see his humanity or his divinity. But our Faith tells us that he is truly present, God and Man. We thank him and adore him as such, and our thoughts are taken to the prayer of one of the other men hanging on crosses alongside Jesus: Remember me when you come into your kingdom.

*We shall consider the rest of this hymn in our next reflection.*