



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

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CHRIST THE KING 21 NOVEMBER 2021

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00	
MONDAY	12 noon	St Cecilia
TUESDAY	12 noon	(St Clement/St Columbanus)
WEDNESDAY	9.30 am	Sts Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions, Martyrs of Vietnam
THURSDAY	12 noon	(St Catherine of Alexandria)
FRIDAY	12 noon	
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 11.40 am-12.50 pm, 6.00-6.40 pm

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

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Today's solemnity of **Christ the King** falls on the last Sunday in the liturgical year and immediately before the first Sunday of Advent. It is so timed to emphasise the connection between Christ's kingship and his second coming, when he will come in glory to judge the world.

Today, so many places in the world are without peace and nations continue in many ways to reject the light of the Gospel. Let us then celebrate gratefully the Solemnity of Christ the King — for the world needs now, more than ever, our witness to His rule over all things.

We welcome **Fr Olayinka Samson Ojekunle** to today's International Mass. Fr Samson is currently at St Bernadette's, Whitefield.



Last Wednesday we had a very fruitful meeting in the parish hall. It was the launch of the new **Friendship Club**. More exactly, it was to see if there was a demand for such a Club. Demand there is, as shown by the many suggestions that were made.

It was decided that **beginning from tomorrow, Monday 22 November, the Prayer Group will meet every fortnight in the Cottage from 7 until 8 o'clock**. There will be time for prayer and socializing.

Then, **beginning from Wednesday 1 December, the Friendship Club will be open in the Hall, also every fortnight, from 12.30 until 3 o'clock**. There will be an opportunity for light refreshments, a chat, maybe music and games, and bingo.

They will thus alternate, with the Prayer Group in the Cottage one week and the Club in the hall the following week.

Both the Prayer Group and the Friendship Club are of course open to non-parishioners, whether Catholic or not. Everyone is welcome, and you are invited to bring family members or friends. Tell them about it!



Among the activities proposed last Wednesday was a **Parish Book Club**. The idea, at present, is to meet monthly, either in the afternoon or evening (to suit the majority), for about 1½ hours, to discuss a book or poetry that we have agreed on together. If you might be interested, contact **Vin Allerton** for further details; by email to vinallerton@gmail.com, by text to 07305 727900, or by phone to 0161-773 3318.

No obligation to come every month, and no detention if you don't do your homework! Did you hear, by the way, of the bookseller conducting a market survey? He asked a woman, 'Which book has helped you most in your life?' To which she replied 'My husband's cheque book!'



Other activities proposed included **trips out** (Musicals, shows, historic sites, country houses, seaside, etc.), a **walking group**, **golf sessions**, and **film nights**. Various people offered to organise these activities, so keep an eye on the newsletter and the parish notice boards for further developments. We are probably thinking of these things taking place in the new year.

A popular suggestion was a **social evening in the hall** on a Friday evening once a month. This could include games (cards, darts, pool?) and the bar would be open. Probably January, but watch out for more news.



Next Sunday 28 November will be the first Sunday of

Advent. **Advent wreath making** will be offered in the parish hall from 2 o'clock until 3.30. It would help, but not essential, if you can bring scissors and some greenery.



The meetings for the Year 9 children preparing for their **Confirmation** will continue on **Sundays 28 November and 5 December**. They will meet **in the upper hall** at 12 noon, after the 11 o'clock Mass.



Those who use the Cottage will be glad to know that we now have a new Combi boiler, replacing the old one which had given up the ghost. The cost has been £1700.



The **2022 Year Book** has come too late for distribution this weekend. But stand by for next weekend!

And if you are coming to Mass during the week, please keep a watchful eye on the times printed in the newsletter. This coming week, for example, the Mass on Wednesday is at 9.30 am, not 12 noon. The Bishop is calling his priests that day to a diocesan meeting about Synodality.

May you all enjoy today's great feast of Christ our King.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic hymns

11 – GLORY BE TO JESUS
... *who in bitter pains
poured for me the life-blood
from his sacred veins*. This

hymn honours the Precious Blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, poured out for us and for many for the forgiveness of sins. The consecration of the wine is an essential element of the Eucharist. Let us hope that we will soon be allowed once more to drink the Blood of Christ as he wants us to. 'Take this, all of you, and drink of it.'

The blood of Jesus brings *grace and life eternal*. His compassion is *infinitely kind*, and the loving care which he showed to so many people during his public ministry does not come to an end when he hangs on the Cross. His torment redeems the whole world from its own torment. When we are troubled, our fainting spirit can drink this blood as easily as we can drink water from a fountain.

A contrast is made between the *blood of Abel*, which is said to plead for vengeance against his brother and murderer Cain, and the *blood of Jesus* which he freely offers in a spirit of loving forgiveness even for the people who are killing him.

The Precious Blood is praised for its power to drive away Satan and all the other wicked spirits, who are stricken with terror while the saints in Heaven are *filled with joy*.

The hymn ends with a rousing appeal for us to raise our voices *louder still and louder* in praise of this great symbol of the sacrifice of love.