



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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3rd SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 23 JANUARY 2022

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00
MONDAY	9.15 am St Francis de Sales
TUESDAY	12 noon The Conversion of St Paul
WEDNESDAY	12 noon Sts Timothy & Titus
THURSDAY	12 noon (St Angela Merici)
FRIDAY	9.15 am St Thomas Aquinas
SATURDAY	11.00 am

The church is open this week as follows:

Monday and Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11.45 am to 6.00 pm

Saturday from 10.45 am to 8.00 pm

Sundays from 8.30 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,

Last week we heard the news that the motor on the church organ failed. The good news now is that the firm of Jardines will install a new motor during the coming week. So our organ should be in fine tune next Sunday. We hope to re-start singing at the 9 o'clock Mass too.



We are now well into the annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. The week ends with the feast of the Conversion of St Paul on Tuesday 25 January.

Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal will meet on Zoom today Sunday

23 January at 3.00 pm. To take part, or simply to watch and pray at home, you need to register for this Zoom meeting.

There is still time to do that by emailing Rev. Steve Williams at St Gabriel's, Prestwich, on st.gab.prest@gmail.com or by texting 07757 411 377. You will then receive the Zoom link by email.



Year 3 children will be looking forward to making their **first Holy Communion** later this year. The feast of **Corpus Christi** this year falls on Sunday 19 June. This feast is always a good time to focus on Our Lord's gift of himself in the Eucharist. First Communion days will be the

nearest Saturdays to the feast: 18 and 25 June.



Some more good news is that **Children's Liturgy will resume again** on the last Sunday of each month during 11 o'clock Mass. We re-start **next Sunday, 30 January**.

Children from Year 2 and below are very welcome to come along. We gather at the front of church after the first hymn and go into the hall to join in with prayers, readings and activities linked to the Gospel. We return to church during the offertory hymn. **We would love to see you there!**



The new **Parents & Toddlers group** got off to a great start last Friday. It was so good to see the young children enjoying each other's company while parents could relax and socialise. Meetings are in the Cottage every Friday from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Parents and Toddlers, come along!



We must continue to think about the **Synod** and any contribution we might make. We are asked to consider some topics and to give our thoughts on them.

What has been your experience of your parish community during the pandemic?

How can we best listen to each other, in the Church and in the wider world?

How do we communicate with each other in our groups, parishes, diocese? Do we have the freedom to speak openly in a loving way?

Celebrating: In what ways does prayer and the celebration of Mass enable us to encounter Jesus more deeply and empower us in our daily lives?

Listening to the Holy Spirit: What do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking of the Church?

Here are the next two topics:

Who walks with us on our journey of faith? What persons or groups are marginalised?

How can we best share the Good News of Jesus with others? What difference are we currently making?

Please send any replies to me. You can add your name(s) or send it anonymously if you wish. I will send all replies on to the person who is coordinating the diocesan response. It will help if you use a separate sheet for each topic.



And finally, today we are asked to pay especial attention to the Word of God. God speaks to us in the Scriptures. The first part of the Mass is known as the **Liturgy of the Word**. We listen carefully to what God has said to his people over many centuries, and to what our Risen Lord says to us in the Gospel. God's Word is a living word. It guides us and encourages us every day. It is a very good practice to read part of the Scriptures every day, and particularly to read from the Gospels.

I take this opportunity to thank the Readers in this parish for their reliability and for the care they take in their ministry. If you would like to join their ranks, please let me know.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on the Sacraments

3 – EUCHARIST

Most of the prayers in the Holy Mass are said aloud, but the priest says some prayers quietly. These prayers help the priest to celebrate the Sacrifice with due reverence, and they are well worth pondering on, as they cast light on the meaning of the Mass for all of us.

Before reading the Gospel, he says *Cleanse my heart*

and lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel – a useful reminder of the importance of proclaiming the word addressed to all of us by God himself.

When he kisses the book of the Gospels he says *Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away*. The Gospel is not just something that we listen to, but rather a source of healing and forgiveness in our lives.

When he pours wine and water into the chalice he says *By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity*. The tiny drop of water is compared to the smallness of our humanity in comparison with the divine majesty of the Son of God.

Having prepared the bread and wine he says *With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God*. As we approach the moment of Consecration we are reminded of the need for humility and sorrow for our unworthiness.

In the same spirit of humility the priest washes his hands, saying *Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin*. Before and after the Communion the priest has more silent prayers to say, which we will consider in our next reflection.