



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 22 MAY 2022

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	9.15 am	No Mass. Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion
TUESDAY	12 noon	Easter Weekday
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Bede

THURSDAY	The Ascension of the Lord Masses: Wednesday evening 7.00 pm Thursday 9.30 am with school children, and 12 noon	
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FRIDAY	9.15 am	St Augustine of Canterbury
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Easter Weekday

The church is open every day this week

Monday and Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Tuesday 11.45 am to 6.00 pm

Wednesday 11.45 am to 8.00 pm

Thursday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Saturday from 10.30 am to 8.00 pm

Sundays from 8.30 am to 12 noon (or later if baptisms)

Confessional times: Saturday 11.40 am to 12.50 pm, 6.00 pm to 6.40 pm

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

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Hold on to your seats – the next few weeks are going to be very busy! Here in date order are some of the special parish events, with more detailed information for each event following.

From today, Exhibition to recall visit of Pope St John Paul II

Tuesday 31 May, Evening Mass for 40th anniversary of the papal visit

Friday 3 June, Parish celebration of Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Saturdays 18 & 25 June, First Holy Communions

Wednesday 13 July, Confirmation



The **Exhibition** recalling Pope St John Paul's visit is mounted on panels around the church. You might like to call in outside of Mass times to view it at leisure. See if you recognise yourself on some of the photographs!

Bishop Tom Neylon, who was ordained in Heaton Park, will be the main celebrant at the evening **Mass** on **31 May**, along with Bishops John Arnold and

Mark Davies and other priests, including some also ordained in the Park. There will be a reception in the parish hall afterwards, and the bar will be open.



Children in our primary school will celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** on Friday 27 May. Our **parish celebration** will be in the parish hall on **3 June**. Tickets are available from today at the back of church. Admission is only £1 for adults, 50p for children. Come along and enjoy the fun: disco, games, raffle, etc.



Children in Year 3 are greatly looking forward to their **first Communion** on either 18 or 25 June. They and their parents have two preparatory meetings before that, on **Sundays 29 May** and **12 June**, both in the parish hall at 9.50 am. They will also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church on **Thursdays 16** and **23 June**, from 3.30 to 5.00 pm.

The children will enjoy a party together in school on Monday 27 June.



Year 8 children have been getting ready for their **Confirmation** for some time now. They will be confirmed in church on **Wednesday 13 July** starting at 7.00 pm.

To complete their preparation, there will be two meetings in the parish hall for them and for their parents on **Sundays 12** and **26 June** after the 11 o'clock Mass, from 12 noon to 1.00 pm. It is important that they attend these meetings.



Year 6 will celebrate their **Leavers' Mass** in church on **Thursday 14 July** at 9.30 am.

Also, on **Sunday 3 July**, we will walk as a parish in the **Italian Procession** in Manchester.



The Bishops of England and Wales have written about **Sunday Mass**:

The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that

the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

They also say:

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

I hope that very many of you will feel able to resume our custom of Sunday Mass from **Pentecost (Whit) Sunday, 5 June**. You will find copies of the Bishops' letter at the back of church.



The **Prayer Group** meet in the Cottage tomorrow Monday 23 May, 7-8.00 pm. All are welcome.

DBS renewal session in the presbytery **next Saturday 28 May**, 10 o'clock to 12 noon.

Children's Liturgy is next Sunday at the 11 o'clock Mass. Children from Year 2 and below, come along!

Booking forms for the parish trip to the Manchester Opera House on Thursday 21 July for the musical '**South Pacific**' are at the back of church.

Finally, a warm 'thank you' to **Fr Patrick Doyle** of the London Oratory, an 'old boy' of Our Lady of Grace. He sent his greetings and said Mass for us on our recent patronal feast.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on hymns to the Holy Spirit

2 – BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD

In the time of the pandemic we are careful not to breathe on anyone else for fear of breathing the life of the virus into them. But for God to breathe divine life into us, that is something else again! This little hymn asks God to do that very thing.

We ask him to fill us **with life anew**. God's love is never stale, always fresh, refreshing us particularly when we are feeling weary or deprived of love. This injection of love into us will help us to love what God loves and to do what God does.

We ask for purity of heart **until with thee I have one will to do and to endure!** If we can receive God's grace with a pure heart there is no limit to what we can achieve, or rather what God can achieve in us. If we really want to do whatever God wants us to do we will be prepared to put up with any inconvenience to ourselves for the good of others.

We pray that we may be totally God's property, **wholly thine**. Since God made us and has infinite power over us, it is only right that we should be totally willing to do his will, keeping nothing back for our selfish desires. We ask that our weak human nature will **glow with thy fire divine**.

The last verse of the hymn looks beyond our present troubled existence to a life of bliss in God's presence. **So shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity!**