



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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PENTECOST (WHIT) SUNDAY 5 JUNE 2022

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	9.15 am Mary, Mother of the Church
TUESDAY	12 noon
WEDNESDAY	12 noon
THURSDAY	12 noon Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (see note over page)
FRIDAY	9.15 am
SATURDAY	11.00 am St Barnabas, Apostle
SUNDAY NEXT	– Trinity Sunday

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Saturday from 10.00 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,

How proud I was of you last Tuesday! You came in numbers and made it an evening to remember. The whole celebration captured the spirit of that famous day in Heaton Park forty years ago.

A lot of work went into Tuesday night and I know that all who were there would want to express their warmest thanks to the many people who made it possible.

The diocesan website (for address, see top of this page) carries a very good report of Tuesday evening's Mass, together with some photos.



The **Exhibition** recalling Pope St John Paul's visit is mounted on panels around the church and **will remain in place until Sunday 3 July**. You might like to call in outside of Mass times to view the Exhibition at leisure.



Today, **Pentecost Sunday**, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. The first reading at Mass today tells how the Holy Spirit came on the apostles and how they immediately began to spread the good news of the Gospel.

Our Bishops want us to make a new beginning this Pentecost. It might be good to reproduce here what I wrote in May:

Now at last things are changing. More and more people are getting back to work, to shopping, to getting out and about, even to holidays at home and abroad.

*Isn't it time therefore that we got back to Sunday Mass? **Our Bishops think so. They invite us to return to Sunday Mass at Pentecost, that is, on Whit Sunday, 5 June.***

They say: Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways.

We thank God that this situation has now changed. 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.**

It is an old and true saying that 'It's the Mass that matters'. Sharing in Holy Mass on the Lord's Day, Sunday, is the best way we have of worshipping God. We are doing what Our Lord asked us to do, when he said 'Do this, in memory of me'. Sharing in Sunday Mass is our sacred obligation.

The Bishops know that some people still feel hesitant about mixing in public, and so they write: *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 now feel able to resume our custom of Sunday Mass. But if you still feel unable to mix in public, try to make Sunday holy in other ways.



The platinum jubilee of our **Queen Elizabeth** has given us yet another reason to

celebrate. What a great example she has been! She has given us all an example of Christian love and service.

Several times in her Christmas messages she has spoken of her faith, and how 'Christ's life and teaching provide the framework in which I try to live my life ... For me, the life of Jesus Christ...is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, He stretched out His hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none.'

We give thanks today for her reign and for 70 years of service, self-sacrifice, devotion, and duty.



Next Thursday, we will keep the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, and we will be praying for vocations to the priesthood. **Fr Ian Kelly** will concelebrate the Mass at 12 noon that day and give the homily. Do come if you can, or at least take part on the live stream.



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. We need to have final numbers for this trip in the near future to make sure of our tickets, so if you would like to come please sign up as soon as you can.



Our prayer today is *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.*

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on hymns to the Holy Spirit

4 – VENI SANCTE SPIRITUS

Holy Spirit, Lord of light! This beautiful hymn is said or sung before the Gospel on Whit Sunday. St Paul tells us that there are many different ways of serving the Church, but the same Spirit animates them all. What is also true is that in each one of us there are many different states of mind that we may be in at different times, but the same Spirit helps us in all of them.

When we experience confusion and darkness, the Spirit brings us his **pure beaming radiance**. When we feel poor, he brings us **treasures which endure**. When we are sad, the Spirit is our guest, **of all consolers the best**, giving us **refreshing peace**.

When we are overburdened by work, he brings **comfort sweet**. When things get hot, in any sense of the word, he brings **pleasant coolness**.

His help is not just superficial. We ask him to **fill our inmost being** with his immortal light. If he should take his grace away all our goodness would be **turned to ill**.

We ask for **healing**, for a **renewal of strength**, for **dew** as a remedy for dryness, for **washing** away the stains of guilt. We ask the Holy Spirit to **bend** our stubborn hearts, to **melt** our frostiness, to **guide our steps** when we are in danger of going astray.

Such a list of dangers that we have to face, and such joy to know that we have the Spirit's remedy for each one!

After praying for ourselves we remind ourselves that we should **adore** God's Holy Spirit. And we end by asking for his comfort when we are dying and for a share in his never-ending **life** after our death.