



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST 19 JUNE 2022

Today is also Fathers’ Day and Day for Life

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am
MONDAY	9.15 am (St Alban)
TUESDAY	9.15 am St Aloysius Gonzaga
WEDNESDAY	12 noon Funeral Mass for John Byrne
THURSDAY	12 noon The Nativity of St John the Baptist
FRIDAY	9.15 am The Sacred Heart of Jesus
SATURDAY	11.00 am First Holy Communions

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 this week: Thursday 3.30 to 5.00 pm. **Saturday** 6.00 pm to 6.40 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: will be resumed on **Saturday 2 July**

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

Have you heard of **Carlo Acutis**? He’s worth getting to know. Carlo was born in London on 3 May 1991. He died in Monza on 12 October 2006. He was fifteen years old. But how much he packed into those fifteen years!

He has been described as ‘an ordinary boy, simple, spontaneous, likeable ... He loved nature and animals, he played football, he had many friends of his age, he was attracted by modern means of social communication, passionate about computer science.’

Carlo was known as a “computer geek” because of his passion and skill with

computers and the internet. He loved playing video games. His console of choice was a PlayStation, or maybe a PS2, released in 2000 when Carlo was nine.

Carlo sounds so ordinary. So what was special about him? Why is he worth getting to know? For two main reasons. First, he had a remarkable love of Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. Second, he used his computer skills to make Jesus known and loved more.

On today’s feast of Corpus Christi, Carlo can help us to grow closer to Christ Jesus.



Carlo’s life is even more remarkable because his parents were not particularly

devout. His Italian mother said that when Carlo was born she had only been to Mass three times: for her first Communion, her Confirmation and her wedding. His father, whose mother was Polish, did attend Mass but was very busy with his work and did not have much time to spend with his son. So how did Carlo’s love of the Blessed Sacrament come about?

Carlo received his First Holy Communion at seven years old. Later Carlo went to Mass and Communion every day. After Mass he stayed in church to adore the Blessed Sacrament. Someone asked him why he was doing this, and he quoted Pope Benedict XVI – ‘God must be adored on our knees and in

silence'. Carlo called the Eucharist the 'highway to heaven'. He said 'The more we receive the Eucharist, the more we become like Jesus and already on this earth, we have a foretaste of paradise ... If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tanned, but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become Saints.'

A priest who knew him said that Carlo 'managed to drag his parents to Mass every day. It was not the other way around; it was not his parents bringing the little boy to Mass, but it was he who managed to get himself to Mass and to convince others to receive Communion daily.' Carlo was very devoted to Our Blessed Lady. He was also known for defending children at school who got picked on, especially any who were disabled.

Between the ages of eleven and fourteen, Carlo created a website which catalogued every reported Eucharistic miracle in the world: www.miracolieucaaristici.org The exhibition based on this website is currently on view in all five continents.

In October 2006 Carlo became ill and was admitted to hospital. He was found to have one of the worst kinds of leukaemia. The fifteen-year-old boy who loved to laugh had days to live. Carlo took the news calmly. He immediately offered all his sufferings for the Pope, the Church, and his own entry into heaven. He said 'I am happy to die, because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God.'

All who knew Carlo recognised his holiness. The cause for his beatification

started in 2013. The postulator for his cause, Francesca Consolini, said: 'His faith, which was unique in such a young person, was pure and certain. It made him always to be sincere with himself and with others. He showed extraordinary care for others; he was sensitive to the problems and situations of his friends and those who lived close to him and were with him day to day...' Carlo Acutis 'understood the true value of life as a gift from God, as an effort, an answer to give to the Lord Jesus day by day in simplicity ... He was a normal boy who was joyful, serene, sincere, and helpful and loved having company, he liked having friends. He used to say, "To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan".'



Blessed Carlo Acutis is an excellent patron for our children making their first Communion this month. He is certainly well worth getting to know!



Most of this week's newsletter is rightly taken up with today's feast of **Corpus Christi**. So here are just a few other items.

The **parish trip** to *South Pacific* has now been filled.

There is a meeting in the parish hall today at 10.15 am for those who help with the **piety stall** and anyone else who would like to help.

The **Prayer Group** will meet in the Cottage tomorrow, Monday, at 7.00 pm. Anyone who would like to come is of course welcome.

Last, but certainly not least, here's wishing a **Happy Father's Day** to all our fathers!

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on hymns:

A Reflection for Corpus Christi
THIS IS MY BODY

The first two verses of this hymn spell out the meaning of the Eucharist. Jesus is speaking to us as he spoke at the Last Supper.

This is my body, broken for you. On the following day his physical body was to be subjected to horrific violence ending in death, truly a breaking of his human life. And in the ritual of the breaking of bread he makes himself available to us so that we can offer his sacrifice with him and receive him as our daily spiritual food.

Bringing you wholeness, making you free. The receiving of Our Lord in Holy Communion gives us strength to carry out all the demands of the Gospel in a spirit of total generosity to the people we meet. ***Take it and eat it ... in love for me.*** Jesus urges us to receive him and to love him as a springboard for showing love to others.

This is my blood poured out for you. Our Lord invites us to drink from his chalice, which is a symbol of his acceptance of his suffering as a means of saving the world from evil. As long as we are not all able to receive from the chalice, we can associate ourselves spiritually with the priest, who drinks the Precious Blood of Jesus on behalf of the whole congregation.

The third and fourth verses of the hymn recall the events which we have celebrated in the last few weeks, Our Lord's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus is ***still with us***, and that makes us ***very close to him***. The Spirit helps us to grow and to be fruitful, like the branches of the vine.

The last verse urges us to ***love one another as Jesus has loved us***. We can return that love by serving our neighbour: ***do it in love for me.***