



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

Phone: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:
www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk

Parish Email:
john.allen@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Diocesan web page:
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

13th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 26 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 (St Cyril of Alexandria)
TUESDAY	12 noon Funeral Mass for Paul Cople

WEDNESDAY	Sts Peter and Paul Holyday of obligation Mass: Tuesday 7.00 pm Wednesday 9.30 am and 12 noon
------------------	---

THURSDAY	12 noon Funeral Mass for Mervyn Turnberg
FRIDAY	9.15 am (St Oliver Plunket)
SATURDAY	11.00 am

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm (This Tuesday until 8.00 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: Saturday 11.40 am to 12.50 pm, 6.00 pm to 6.40 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Saturday 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

There's an Irish ballad called 'The Wearing of the Green'. It goes to the tune of an old Irish air. Green became the national colour of Ireland, due it is said to the colour of shamrock, which St Patrick used in trying to explain the Blessed Trinity.

You will have noticed that today the colour of the vestments at Sunday Mass is **green** once more. We have gone through the purple of Lent, the white of Easter and the red of Pentecost. Now we are back in 'Ordinary Time', or 'Sundays of the Year'.

We can't however say that the choice of green has anything to do with Ireland or the shamrock. Rather, **green is the colour of life and growth**. It is therefore the colour of the 'Sundays of the Year' or 'Sundays in Ordinary Time'.

Why? Because these Sundays help us to grow in our faith. We have celebrated the central mysteries of Christmas and Easter. Now, week by week, we try to make those mysteries our own. We see what a difference Jesus makes in our lives. We learn to follow him more closely. With his grace to help us, we grow more like him.

During this summer time we see how plants and animals grow and thrive. In the autumn the crops will ripen and be ready for harvest. On a spiritual level, something like that should be happening to us. In that sense, **'Ordinary Time' is far from being ordinary. It is one of the most important times of the year.**



We are blessed in the coming week to celebrate the feast of **Saints Peter and Paul**. Our Lord made St Peter the rock on which the Church is built. Peter went to Rome and led the Church there in very difficult times.

Under the emperor Nero Peter was put to death about the year 64 AD. Tradition tells that he was crucified upside down at his own request, claiming he was unworthy to die the same way as his Lord. He was buried on the Vatican hill.

When the persecution of Christians ceased in Rome, the emperor Constantine built a basilica over St Peter's tomb. That basilica stood for over a thousand years, to be replaced by the present St Peter's. Wednesday next will be a day of great celebration there. The ancient statue of St Peter will be decorated, the place will be filled with music and singing, the floor will be carpeted with bay leaves, and as the many thousands of pilgrims and visitors tread them underfoot the leaves give off a beautiful fragrant scent.

From early times the Church in Rome celebrated the martyrdoms of St Peter and St Paul on the same day. St Paul had taken the Gospel around most of the known world before finally coming to Rome. He was martyred about the year 67 AD and was buried beside the Via Appia outside the city. The 4th century basilica built over his tomb lasted until the 1800s. Most of that basilica was destroyed by fire. The present basilica was built on the same site.

These two saints are regarded as the founders of the See of Rome. St Augustine in a famous sermon said: 'Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood.

Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith.'



We have been invited by the Manchester Italian Association to join their annual procession in Manchester next Sunday, 3 July. Parishes and communities from around the diocese of Salford will take part.

We took part in this procession before Covid struck. Now the procession has been revived and I hope many of you will come and join in. It would be a great experience for our first Communion children, walking in their Communion clothes.

The procession will leave from outside the former St Michael's church on George Leigh Street, Ancoats, at 1.15 pm on Sunday 3 July. We will assemble as a parish outside the church, along with the other parishes and communities taking part.



Finally, our love and prayers go to our children who have now received Our Lord for the first time.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic Prayer 2

1 – THE PREFACE DIALOGUE

The Eucharistic Prayer is the core of the Holy Mass, in which the celebrating priest leads the congregation in praising and thanking God. He recites the words of Jesus by which the bread and wine are transformed into his truly present Body and Blood, and

he offers the Sacrifice by which the world is redeemed.

Over the centuries the Church has developed several forms of the Eucharistic Prayer. Our reflections will be based on the Second Eucharistic Prayer, which is very ancient and very concise, containing all the elements necessary for a worthy and prayerful offering of the supreme Sacrifice of Jesus in which we are privileged to share.

The prayer begins with a dialogue between priest and people, expressing their unity. Even though we have to have a priest who is ordained and thus has the power to bring about the Consecration, the people are not there as spectators but as sharers in the act of offering.

He greets the people for the third time in the Mass with the words ***The Lord be with you***, and urges them to be joyful: ***Lift up your hearts!*** The Mass is an act of thanks and praise, so he says ***Let us give thanks to the Lord our God***, and the people acknowledge that ***It is right and just***.

If we look back to the time before the twentieth century, we see many lay people being present at Mass but saying their own prayers while the priest was performing the ceremony. 'He does his job while I do mine!' Only on rare occasions would they receive Holy Communion.

We are indebted to St Pius X for encouraging all Catholics to take their rightful place in the action. The Preface Dialogue reminds us how blessed we are to enjoy this privilege.