



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

‘Stay with us, Lord, on our journey’

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19th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 7 AUGUST 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 Dominic
TUESDAY	12 noon	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Patron of Europe
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	St Lawrence
THURSDAY	12 noon	St Clare
FRIDAY	9.15 am	(St Jane Frances de Chantal)
SATURDAY	11.00 am	(Sts Pontian & Hippolytus)
SUNDAY NEXT	– The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	

Mass is live streamed. Go to the parish web site and click underneath ‘Live Streaming’

The church is open every day

Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm

Saturday from 9.00 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 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

My dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am grateful to Canon Anthony McBride for coming to Our Lady of Grace while I am away this week, hopefully enjoying some sun and sea in Wales.



Which is the oldest parish in the Salford Diocese? Two parishes would make that claim: **Whalley** near Blackburn, and **Eccles** in Salford. Our parish trip on 19 August will visit Whalley after Stonyhurst.

It is said that there was a church in Whalley in 628 and that St Paulinus, the first Bishop of York, came to preach here. The three crosses in the churchyard at

Whalley are known as the Paulinus Crosses. In fact they have no connection with Paulinus. They are Celtic crosses, probably dating from the tenth and eleventh centuries, witnessing to an Irish connection.

The Cistercian monks at Stanlaw Abbey in Cheshire had suffered greatly from the incursions of the sea and a disastrous fire. In 1296 they moved to Whalley.

But like all the religious houses in England and Wales, and many in Ireland, Whalley abbey was closed down by order of King Henry VIII in 1537 and the buildings sold off to private owners. The Anglican diocese of Blackburn owns

most of the abbey site now, though the Salford diocese owns what was once the lay brothers' dormitory. We shall see this on our visit.

The present church of St Mary & All Saints in Whalley was built around 1200. The present Catholic church in Whalley was opened in 1926. It houses a precious relic – a very old statue of Our Lady found in the nearby River Calder and thought to have been thrown out of the Abbey at the Reformation.

The closing of the monasteries was very unpopular in many parts of England and Wales. It led to an uprising in the north of England known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. The last abbot of Whalley, **John**

Paslew, was involved in this. Henry had him executed. In its day, the abbey was a centre of hospitality and learning, where the old and infirm could rely for help. With abbeys all over the land closed, many of these poorer people suffered.



Eccles would dispute Whalley's claim to be the oldest parish in the Salford diocese. The very name 'Eccles' is of course 'Ecclesia' – the Latin word for 'Church'. It is claimed that St Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre in Gaul, came here on his famous visit to Britain in the first half of the fifth century. The church in Eccles was dedicated to St Mary, possibly soon after the Council of Ephesus in 431 which clarified that Mary was rightly called the Mother of God.

The Anglican church and the Catholic church in Eccles today are both dedicated to St Mary. The pre-Reformation church of St Mary the Virgin, now the Anglican parish church, has stood on the same site for at least 800 years. It is the oldest church in the city of Salford. The more modern Catholic church, opened in 1898, was built with help from the de Trafford family. It reminds us of the influence of this ancient family in this part of Lancashire.



Booking forms for the parish trip to **Stonyhurst and Whalley** on Friday 19 August are on the table near the choir stairs. Stonyhurst has been here as a school since 1794 but it began on the continent in 1593, when Catholic education was outlawed in England.



Following last week's mention of the **parish library**, would you please check if you have any books, CDs or DVDs on loan from there which may have been taken out pre-pandemic and forgotten about? Over the last few months, the Librarians have been working on updating the Parish Library Catalogue. To help them finish their work, if you have anything on loan, would you please bring it into the library or the presbytery during August.

As well as the library (open in the hall after both Sunday morning Masses) we have other assets too in church. There is a wide selection of **CTS** pamphlets near the choir stairs and a good number of **Lighthouse** CDs near the piety stall. How good they are for deepening our knowledge and love of our Catholic faith!



Any Masses received after last Tuesday will be recorded **next week**, as will be the names of those who have died recently or whose anniversary is about this time. When sending Masses in do please make clear what the intention is.

Fr Allen

Fr Dearman's Reflections on Eucharistic Prayer 2

7 – FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Our Lord on the Cross offered his body and blood for the whole human race. When we come to take our part in his Sacrifice we want to make sure that we share in his love for everyone, whether living or dead. No one should be excluded. The words of the

Eucharistic Prayer help us to remember this universal love.

First we pray for the Church on earth. We are privileged to be members of a vast community, of all the people who are united with us in Faith. Many of them suffer pains and persecutions because of their religion. We pray that we may all have *the fulness of charity*. In particular we pray for our Pope, who is charged with responsibility for the whole of the Catholic Church throughout the world, and for the Bishop of our diocese.

The Pope and Bishop are mentioned by name, which has the merit of stating where we stand in relation to the Church. We are in communion with the Pope and with our Bishop, linked to them by our Faith. The mention of their names also reminds us that they are real persons, subject like us to the difficulties of life in the world of today. And we remember also the priests and deacons who assist the bishop in the running of the diocese.

Next we pray for *those who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection*, a beautiful way of referring to those we have loved who have professed their faith in their lives on earth, but who are by no means lost for ever, since Our Lord's rising from the dead assures us that we too are destined to follow him.

But we do not restrict our prayer to Christians. We know that the Holy Spirit inspires many other people to show love in their lives, and that they can receive God's mercy when they die.

Finally, we ask for mercy for all of us, for the whole human race. And this leads to a reminder that in the Mass we are closely united to Our Lady and all the saints, and to God's holy angels. After that comes the climax of the prayer and the Great Amen.