



OUR LADY OF GRACE PRESTWICH

'Stay with us, Lord, on our journey'

Phone/Fax: 0161 773 2324

Parish web page:
www.ourladyofgrace.co.uk

Diocesan web page:
www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

1st SUNDAY IN LENT 1 MARCH 2020

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	9.15 am	Lent Weekday
TUESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday/St Casimir
THURSDAY	7.00 pm	Lent Weekday Deanery Station Mass (see below)
FRIDAY	8.00 am	Lent Weekday
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Sts Perpetua & Felicity (Novena 10.40)

CONFESSIONS this week

SATURDAY 11.30 am-12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Saturday 11.30 am-12.30 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Sacred Heart, Rochdale

Collection last Sunday £1203.61. Thanks to your generosity in the **Starving World box** in February we are able to send £529.36 to Aid to the Church in Need. The March contents will go to CAFOD. The box for St Anthony's Bread will be renamed '**Lenten Alms**' during this season: at Bishop Arnold's suggestion, the contents will go to CAFOD to help the Church in Zimbabwe.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

What's on This Week

Traidcraft stall is in the parish hall **today, 1 March**, after both morning Masses. Buying Fairtrade goods supports the cause of justice in world trade.

The prayer group will meet Monday 2 March at the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion 1 B St Margaret's Close M25 2LY, 7.00-8.00pm

All are welcome and maybe you would like to make a special effort for Lent?

Singalong in the parish hall **Thursday 5 March 11-12.30**

Lenten Station Mass at Our Lady of Grace **7.00 pm Thursday 5 March. Not the Stations of the Cross but an ancient custom of the Church, revived in this diocese some 50 years ago. Priests and people of our deanery will celebrate Mass, showing the unity of the**

Church in a spirit of prayer and penance.

Other Deanery Lenten Station Masses will be at Guardian Angels, Bury, on 19 March and at St Patrick's, Rochdale, on Thursday 26 March, with Bishop Arnold.

Mass on the Fridays of Lent will be at **8.00 am.**

Family Fast Day is Friday 6 March. Sister Consilia is a nun and a trained pharmacist who works in a rural health centre in

Zimbabwe. *Without the support that people like us give to CAFOD, the work that local experts like Sister Consilia do, saving lives each and every day, just couldn't continue. And there is a huge need for more people like her. On Friday next, will you eat a simple meal in solidarity, and give what you save to CAFOD, to improve the health of some of the world's poorest people? You may use the Gift Envelope attached to this newsletter, and put it in the offertory collection next week.*

Caring for Our Planet

Thought for March: Cutting down pollution from vehicles. The days are getting longer and, we hope, the weather will soon improve. Maybe it's time to think about using the car a little less and walking (or cycling) a little more. Obviously a car is necessary for carrying heavy shopping, for longer journeys and for those less able to walk but, for those who can, cutting down on car journeys cuts down on pollution. We could also use the tram for some journeys as they produce no exhaust fumes. Every little step will help improve the air quality around us.

Our Parish Library

2020 is the 'Year of the Word'. Why not mark this important year with a visit to the parish library. There are many books on Scripture. New books are now available.

Budapest 2020

18 parishioners and friends have now booked to attend the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest 13-20 September this year. **Just two places left!**

Deanery/Diocese

What's going on?

Fr Richard Ounsworth OP will speak on **Wednesday 4 March**, 7.30 – 9.00pm, at St Gabriel's RC High School, Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ on the Mass as the '**Source and Summit**' of our faith. Fr Ounsworth teaches Scripture and New Testament Greek at Blackfriars, Oxford.

World Day of Prayer

*The WDP Service will be at St Margaret's church on **Friday 6 March** at 1.30 pm. The Service this year has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe – everyone is very welcome.*

H.C.P.T. Fair

Come and join us for lunch on **Saturday 14 March** in the parish hall. The H.C.P.T. Fair will open at 10.30 am with many stalls selling a variety of goods. All proceeds will help to send sick children to Lourdes at Easter, and help with the fares of young helpers from the diocese travelling with the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage.

Enviro-lent Resources

*A diocesan message: "Throughout Lent we will once again be reflecting on care for our common home. To help parishes and schools around the diocese to do this, we have produced a series of posters which place a weekly focus on ways we can take practical action. **Each week will focus on a different R: reduce, reuse, recycle, rewild and reclaim.***

"Enviro-lent will close with a call to prayer using an adapted prayer for our

Common Home produced by the diocese."

[The first week's poster has Our Lady of Grace as its parish focus. See poster in outer porch.]

Liturgy of the Word: The First Reading

The First Reading is an "introduction" to the Gospel and is usually taken from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is a story spanning many centuries, written in many different styles, but always expressing the Covenant – the special relationship God forged with the Chosen People ("Testament" is another word for "Covenant"). This Covenant is completed by Jesus in all he said and did, most especially the "Paschal Mystery" – his death and resurrection. So in our faith, Jesus "completes" the first reading from the Old Testament.

The Old Testament can be forbidding sometimes: the Church has selected passages which have a resonance for us because of Jesus – we should try and be open to the fascinating story of God's people journeying through the centuries. This journey is continued in Eastertide, when the first readings tell the story of the early Church (after the resurrection) from the book of Acts.

This year the first readings take us through some of the most important moments of the Old Testament, meeting Adam, Abraham, Moses and David – but always with a "sacramental" emphasis – water, oil, breath and life – which is pointing to the celebration and renewal of Baptism at Easter.