



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

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT 15 MARCH 2020

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

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|---------------|---|--|
| SUNDAY | First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am | |
| MONDAY | 9.15 am | Lent Weekday |
| TUESDAY | 9.15 am | St Patrick, patron of Ireland |
| WEDNESDAY | 12 noon | Lent Weekday/St Cyril of Jerusalem |
| THURSDAY | 12 noon | St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| | 7.00 pm | Deanery Station Mass, Guardian Angels, Bury |
| FRIDAY | 8.00 am | Lent Weekday |
| SATURDAY | 11.00 am | Lent Weekday (Novena 10.40) |

CONFESSIONS

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 St John's, Rochdale & St Gabriel's, Castleton

Collection last Sunday £1162.46.

Thank you for your Lenten Fast Day contributions to CAFOD last week which came to £1,045.30. Any further envelopes (some may still be available at the back of church) please place in with the normal offertory collection. If a taxpayer, do sign the Gift Aid form on the envelope – it's worth an extra 25% to CAFOD. The March contents in the **Starving World box** will also go to CAFOD, so if you have forgotten the Lenten Fast envelope you might put your contribution in here.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Coronavirus Precautions

The **Singalong group** and the **Line Dancers** have decided to suspend their meetings for the time being. In the Liturgy, some people have requested that we retain the **Sign of Peace** but without making physical contact. So at the appropriate time let us

acknowledge our neighbours at Mass with a smile and a word of peace. **Communion under both kinds** will be suspended for the time being.

A message from our Bishop asks us to reassure parishioners that, if they feel vulnerable to infection or have particular concerns, they should feel able to dispense themselves from the obligation of attending

Sunday Mass until the virus has passed.

EWTN is a global Catholic network followed by millions of people around the world. It relays daily Mass at 12 noon, 6.00 pm and 11.00 pm as well as many programmes of great interest. EWTN can be accessed from the internet and by satellite TV. If you have Sky, you will find EWTN on 588. There is also a very good service available which

streams live Masses and other services via this link: <https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now>

This week's Masses

*Please take careful note of times of Holy Mass this week, particularly on **St Patrick's Day, 17 March**, when Mass will be at **9.15 am** and not at 12 noon.*

*The next deanery Station Mass is at Guardian Angels, Harvey Street, Bury BL8 2RD, **next Thursday 19 March**. The final Station Mass will be at St John's, Rochdale, on **Thursday 26 March**, this with Bishop Arnold. Both will start at **7.00 pm**.*

*Mass on the **Fridays of Lent** is at **8.00 am**.*

The Prayer Group will meet on **Monday 16 March** 7.00-8.00 pm at 1 B St Margaret's Close. We look forward to praying together. We will also pray for the intentions asked for in the parish prayer box.

Children's Liturgy

*Children's Liturgy will take place during 11.00 am Mass **next Sunday**. Children from Nursery to Year 2 (ages 3 - 7) are welcome to come and join in with singing and prayers linked to the Sunday readings, and also to make something special for Mother's Day!*

Gift Aid

We are nearing the end of the tax year, and **boxes of envelopes** for the offertory collection scheme, for the new tax year starting on 6 April, will be available for collection from **next Saturday 21 March**. If you don't already use the envelopes, please consider

joining – especially if you are a taxpayer. You can give as much as you like, and as often as you wish – there is no commitment to any fixed donation. Leaflets about the scheme are available at the back of church.

Our Lady's Dowry

In two weeks' time, on the last Sunday of this month, we will take part in the nationwide re-dedication of England as the 'Dowry of Mary'. The Rededication is a reminder that we are part of a living tradition. It's a tradition that tells us something about the past but it also tells us something about now, because our faith - to be vibrant and real and powerful - is ever ancient, ever new.

In this time of uncertainty because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is of the greatest importance for us to place ourselves under the protection and guidance of Christ through Mary, our Mother.

Deanery/Diocese

Living the Sunday Eucharist: The Second Reading

After the prayerful meditation of the Psalm, we have more words – normally from Saint Paul, but sometimes Saint Peter, Saint James or Saint John. These second readings are separate from what has gone before, so it is important not to rush into them. The second readings are all about the application of the Gospel: how to live discipleship, how to be missionaries – they are essentially practical.

Saint Paul especially wrote letters to communities to help them live out the Gospel –

and those letters have such value that they have found their way into the Bible and been passed on through the centuries to our Sunday worship. They are not always easy to understand: Saint Paul's sentences can be very long and complex – a real challenge to our readers and also to us who listen. The responsibility of readers to prepare their readings is particularly important with these second readings.

There will always be a message, or a point that you can grasp, if you are listening out for it. These words have been part of the life of the Church since the first communities in Corinth or Rome or Ephesus eagerly "opened the envelope" to see what Paul the preacher had to say to them!

Aid to the Church in Need

"With coronavirus dominating the headlines, it is clear we are living through an unsettling time, especially for those of us with vulnerable loved ones.

"We are seeing the virus spread across the globe to many countries ACN supports, including Iraq, India and the Philippines. Last week, the Palestinian Authority declared a state of emergency and put Bethlehem in lockdown, the home to many Christians supported by ACN.

"Sadly, a large number of Christians in Bethlehem already live in difficult financial situations and are now facing even greater struggles. It is crucial for us to remain united in prayer with our brothers and sisters through this troubling time, as they witness to Christ's love this long Lent."