



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

6th SUNDAY ‘OF THE YEAR’ 16 FEBRUARY 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 | (The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order) |
| TUESDAY | 9.15 am | |
| WEDNESDAY | 12 noon | |
| THURSDAY | 12 noon | |
| FRIDAY | 9.15 am | (St Peter Damian) |
| SATURDAY | 11.00 am | The Chair of St Peter, Apostle (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

YOUR PRAYERS are asked for Mrs Mary Morris of Hastings Avenue, Whitefield. May she rest in peace.

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Today, the other parishes are praying for us.

Collection last Sunday £945.59.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Children’s Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy is **today** during 11.00am Mass. Children from Nursery to Year 2 (ages 3-7) are welcome to come and join in with singing, prayers and activities linked to the Sunday readings.

Sacramental Programme

Next Sunday brings the 3rd stage of the Programme preparing our Year 3 children for their first Holy

*Communion. The theme will be ‘Reconciliation’. Parents and children will meet in the parish hall next Sunday at **9.50 am.***

Singalong!

Don’t forget the Singalong in the parish hall 11.00-12.30 **next Thursday morning**, 20 February. Research has shown that music can bring calm to people with dementia by reducing agitation and supporting those affected to cope better with symptoms. The fortnightly session in the parish hall is a little help.

Budapest 2020

A number of parishioners have now booked to attend the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest 13-20 September this year. Our party will cover ten nights, 11 to 21 September, flying from Manchester and staying at the D8 hotel in Budapest. The cost is £1225, including registration for the Congress, bringing with it admission to all major Congress events and free travel in the city. Booking forms are available from the piety stall or presbytery.

Our Parishioners from Nigeria

We are one with our parishioners who come from **Nigeria** in sharing their concern for what is happening in that country. As **Bishop Matthew Kukah** of Sokoto has said, “Killing Christians” and “destroying Christianity” in northern Nigeria are top objectives for Islamist terror groups. The bishop says all the faithful are now at risk.

Bishop Kukah made his comments in a homily at the funeral of 18-year-old seminarian **Michael Nnadi** of the Good Shepherd Seminary, Kaduna, who was abducted and murdered by being beheaded.

The bishop said: “For us Christians, this death is a metaphor for the fate of all Christians in Nigeria, but especially northern Nigeria... For us Christians, it would seem safe to say that we are all marked men and women today.”

Michael Nnadi was one of four seminarians kidnapped at Kaduna seminary on 8th January. The others were all released. The abductions followed the apparent beheading of ten Christians on Christmas Day 2019 by a Daesh (ISIS) affiliate.

Bishop Kukah said: “Are we angry? Yes, we are. Are we sad? Of course, we are. Are we tempted to vengeance? Indeed, we are. Do we feel betrayed? You bet. Do we know what to do? Definitely.” He added: “Are we in a war? Yes. But what would Christ have us do? The only way He has pointed out to us is the non-violent way. It is the road less travelled, but it is the only way.”

The bishop paid tribute to the support provided by leading Catholic charity **Aid to the Church in Need** throughout seminarian Michael Nnadi’s ordeal and afterwards. Our Lady of Grace parish regularly contributes to the support of Aid to the Church in Need. The contents of the Starving World box during February will go to there. Meanwhile, we offer our sympathy and our prayers to our fellow-parishioners from Nigeria.

Deanery/Diocese

“Mark Wiggin and the team at Caritas Diocese of Salford send their sincere thanks for the £851.65 raised at this year’s Caritas Sunday at Our Lady of Grace. We are humbled by the support behind our mission to help those in need in our communities. Please be assured that the funds raised will be put to great use across the Diocese of Salford as we respond to local people in need. If you require any more information please check our website”
www.caritassalford.org.uk

Coronavirus

We must pray for the end of this epidemic. In the UK the risk is currently low but in other parts of the world people are very anxious. The half million Catholics in Hong Kong, for example, will be without Mass for the next fortnight. The diocese there has suspended all church programmes for the next two weeks and cancelled the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

The best way of protecting us is of course for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus. We should be doing this all the time for ‘flu:

*§ Catch it - sneeze into a tissue
§ Bin it - bin the tissue
§ Kill it - wash your hands with soap and water
§ Do not touch your face unless you’ve washed your hands
§ Ensure good cleaning of surfaces lots of people touch regularly.*

Vocations Weekend

The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) have arranged a Vocations Weekend for young women to be held in Liverpool on 28 February to 1 March. The theme will be Discernment and Vocation.

“There is nothing quite like religious life – it’s an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.

“If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.”

For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit the FCJ website at www.fcjsisters.org

Dowry of Mary

A DIY Retreat to prepare for the re-dedication of England as Mary’s Dowry begins next Friday 21 February. We have been promised booklets to be delivered during the coming week to help those who would like to follow this Retreat.