



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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 5 JANUARY 2020

HOLY MASS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	First Mass of Sunday is 7pm Saturday. Sunday morning 9.00 & 11.00 am	
MONDAY	9.15 am	Christmas Weekday
TUESDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday/St Raymond of Penyafort
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday
THURSDAY	12 noon	Christmas Weekday
FRIDAY	9.15 am	Christmas Weekday
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Christmas Weekday (Novena 10.40 am)
SUNDAY NEXT - The Baptism of the Lord		

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 11.30 am -12.30 pm 6.00-6.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Saturday 11.30 am to 12.30 pm

DEANERY CIRCLE OF PRAYER Sacred Heart, Rochdale

Collection last Sunday £1178.75. Thank you also for £100 from the Zimbabwe group, £20 for the Retired Priests Fund. **Next Sunday** is the annual White Flower Appeal, with a retiring collection for SPUC – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Traidcraft

Our next sale of Fairtrade goods will be **today, Sunday, 5 January** in the Parish Hall, after both the 9am and 11am Masses. Last year, we sold a total of £5,232 in goods, both here at Our Lady of Grace and at a number of other parishes and events. These sales directly benefit many people in developing countries, who receive a fair price for their produce. But there is

another benefit too; we were able to give the profit of £916.80 on these sales to CAFOD, to help fund their work with some of the poorest communities around the world. Many thanks to everyone who buys Fairtrade goods from us - please continue in 2020.

Sacramental Programme

*There will be a meeting for children and their parents **next Sunday 12 January** at 9.50 am in the parish hall.*

The Parish Hall

Please consider using the Hall for your family events: for baptisms, weddings, family parties and reunions, significant birthdays, etc. Why look further when we have such a tremendous asset on the doorstep? Recent improvements include new interior lighting.

The Cottage too is increasingly in favour especially for children's parties. Info and booking forms from the presbytery

It's Party time!

It's high time we had another "Parish Workers' Party". So we will, on **Friday evening, 31 January**. If your name is in the Parish Year Book 2020, you are invited!

Deanery/Diocese

Make a Date!

Bishop Philip Egan will speak at St Gabriel's RC High School, Bridge Road, Bury, BL9 0TZ on **The New Evangelisation, this Wednesday 8 January 7:30-9:00pm**. Bishop Egan is the Bishop of Portsmouth. He was born in Altrincham and was previously Vicar General in the Diocese of Shrewsbury. He will be sharing with us some suggestions of how we can share the good news of the Gospel with others.

For more information visit: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/parishes/events
call: 0161 817 2214 or email: hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk – or just turn up on the night!

Eucharistic Ministers

Liturgy & Ministry Training with Sr Moira and Fr Chris from the Irenaeus Project, at St Vincent de Paul RC Church, Rochdale, OL12 6BU Saturday 18 January 9:15 - 16:00. Tea/Coffee will be provided, please bring a packed lunch. Register now on the Salford diocesan website (address over).

Christian Unity

Our special service for Churches Together in Prestwich and Kersal will be at St Margaret's, Prestwich, on **Sunday 19 January** at

3.00 pm. The keynote speaker is **our Bishop, John Arnold**, and his theme is the preservation of the environment. We are all surely united in our concern for the future of the planet as part of the salvation story.

Caring for Our Planet

*A Thought for January
New Year's Resolutions*

When making new year's resolutions, why not think of one that helps our planet? If you're short of ideas, think back to Bishop Arnold's pastoral letter for Lent 2019.

We can shop more carefully, particularly choosing local produce, so saving the expensive transportation costs and use of fuel.

We can cut the temperature on our central heating (perhaps wearing a pullover around our home).

We can walk more and use less petrol, using public transport more regularly.

We can turn lights off in unused rooms, hang washing out to dry rather than using energy-expensive drying machines.

We can reduce the waste we make and recycle more.

These may seem almost trivial but they are significant ways where we can make an impact for the good. We show the goodness of our faith by our actions. Why not adopt one of the Bishop's ideas and when it is so embedded in your life that you no longer have to think about it, adopt another idea.

Epiphany in Italy

The feast of the Epiphany, known as *La Befana*, is an important part of the Christmas festivities in Italy. *La Befana* comes from a fairytale about a woman who flies on a broomstick bringing

presents to children. She is believed to be searching for baby Jesus, and that is why she bears gifts for children. Italian cities and towns have festivities and parades to celebrate Epiphany.

Pope Francis, 6/1/2019

At Christmas did we bring gifts to Jesus for his party, or did we only exchange gifts among ourselves?

If we went to the Lord empty-handed, today we can remedy that. The Gospel, in some sense, gives us a little "gift list": gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Gold, the most precious of metals, reminds us God has to be granted first place; he has to be worshipped. But to do that, we need to remove ourselves from the first place and to recognize our neediness, the fact that we are not self-sufficient. Then there is **frankincense**, which symbolizes a relationship with the Lord, prayer, which like incense rises up to God (cf. Ps 141:2). Just as incense must burn in order to yield its fragrance, so too, in prayer, we need to "burn" a little of our time, to spend it with the Lord. Not just in words, but also by our actions. We see this in the **myrrh**, the ointment that would be lovingly used to wrap the body of Jesus taken down from the cross (cf. Jn 19:39). The Lord is pleased when we care for bodies racked by suffering, the flesh of the vulnerable, of those left behind, of those who can only receive without being able to give anything material in return. Precious in the eyes of God is mercy shown to those who have nothing to give back.