



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

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT 8 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/St Frances of Rome
TUESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday
WEDNESDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday
THURSDAY	12 noon	Lent Weekday
FRIDAY	8.00 am	Lent Weekday
SATURDAY	11.00 am	Lent Weekday (Novena 10.40)

CONFESSIONS this week

THURSDAY	6.00-7.00 pm	
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 Michael's & St Bernadette's, Whitefield

Collection last Sunday £1253.20. Please put any CAFOD Fast Day envelopes in the offertory collection. The March contents in the **Starving World box** will go to CAFOD, so if you have forgotten the Lenten Fast envelope you might put your contribution in here.

The box for St Anthony's Bread will be renamed '**Lenten Alms**' during this season: at Bishop Arnold's suggestion, the contents will also go to CAFOD, to help the Church in **Zimbabwe**.

NEWSLETTER

Parish

Coronavirus Precautions

Parishes in the deanery of St Therese of Lisieux (Bury, Middleton, Rochdale) will temporarily cease certain liturgical practices in order to minimise the possibility of anyone who is carrying the coronavirus handing it on to other parishioners. So, until further notice, we will not have the Sign of Peace nor

Communion under both kinds. These are precautionary measures already implemented in a number of parishes around the diocese and beyond.

Lenten Station Mass

A big Thank you to all who helped in any way at last Thursday's Mass. Parishioners and visitors alike found it an inspiring occasion. The remaining two deanery Station Masses are at Guardian Angels, Bury,

on Thursday 19 March and at St John's, Rochdale, (not St Patrick's as posted last week) on Thursday 26 March, this with Bishop Arnold.

Sacrament of Penance

This Thursday, 12 March, those preparing for their first Holy Communion will take part in the Penitential Service here at Our Lady of Grace. Frs Allen and Dearman will hear confessions in the side chapels and Fr Philip Brady,

PP of St Mary's, Radcliffe, will be in the confessional box. This is a very good opportunity to make Easter Duties. **Come at any time between 6 and 7 o'clock on Thursday evening.** There is no formal structure to the Service, apart from a reading every quarter, and music to accompany.

Highly recommended is a six-minute video by **Fr Gavin Landers**. You can see it on the diocesan website – www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk where he speaks about the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a very simple and attractive way.

And a reminder: Mass on the Fridays of Lent is at 8.00 am.

Our Lady's Dowry

On the last Sunday of this month, we will take part in the re-dedication of England as the 'Dowry of Mary'. Fr Allen spoke about this at last Thursday's Deanery Station Mass. Here is an extract from his homily. The whole homily can be seen on the parish website.

English people long ago had a special devotion to Our Lady. It's reckoned that half the parish churches in England were dedicated to her. One example is St Mary's pre-Reformation church here in Prestwich. There's also a famous painting in the National Gallery in London. It's called 'the Wilton Diptych'. It shows King Richard II placing England under the protection of Our Blessed Lady as 'her dowry'. Another king, the infamous Henry VIII, reversed what Richard had done. Henry had the statue of Our Lady brought from Walsingham and burnt in London.

But now, this very month, we will be privileged to take part in the re-dedication of our country to Our Lady. It will be on the last Sunday of this month, the Sunday after the feast of the Annunciation. The re-dedication will take place in every Catholic cathedral and in many parishes and homes.

So what is this re-dedication for us? Well, it's both personal. And it's communal. It's personal, in that each one of us celebrates the fact that Jesus gave us His mother as our mother. And we take to ourselves what she said to the waiters at the wedding feast of Cana: 'Do whatever He tells you.'

And the re-dedication is also communal. We come together as the people of this country to renew the dedication made so long ago. We will be asking for Our Lady's prayers and her protection, for ourselves and for this country. We will ask her to help the whole Church in this country in one very special way. And that is, to help us bring the Good News of her Son Jesus to the people of today by our own witness to the Faith.

Budapest 2020

16 parishioners and friends have booked to attend the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest 13-20 September 2020. **Just four places left!** See Fr Allen.

Deanery/Diocese

H.C.P.T. Fair

Come and join us for lunch **next 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, and help with the fares of young helpers from the diocese travelling with the diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage.

Living the Sunday Eucharist: The Responsorial Psalm

The Responsorial Psalm is something different from the readings that precede and follow it – ideally it is a musical interlude, a reflective song that helps us "digest" the Word we have heard before we hear more.

The Psalms have a long history, many of them dating back three thousand years: they were the prayer book of Israel, offering meditations on so many things – personal sorrow, doubt and grief, expressions of trust, hope and faith, the rejoicing and mourning of the whole people. In a sense there is a psalm for every situation in life.

Each Sunday, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) is selected that flows from the first reading, chewing it over in poetry and song. Since these are (and always have been) songs, they should be sung – preferably by a cantor with a response for the people. Even if the Psalm is not sung, it must somehow mark a "change of pace" in the Liturgy of the Word, being more about prayer, reflection and contemplation than understanding, and each parish must think about how to use the Psalms effectively in Sunday worship – some parishes invite everyone to recite the psalm together.

Pope Francis' Prayer: May the Church in China persevere in faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.