

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Tommy Ode, Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz, Kathleen Colgan.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Nora Walsh, Kathleen Walsh, Jim O’Neil, Anne Bent, Hannah Fisher, Brenda Garnett, Keith Brown, Danny Smith, Bertha Finneran, Michael Foy.

Anniversaries: Mollie Watson, Robert Burton, Rory Fagan, Joseph Shelton, Janet Richards, Terry Conner.

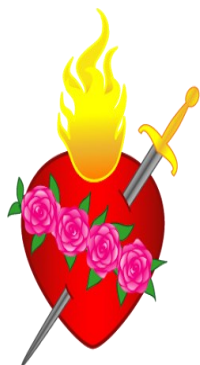
WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“No one in the world can change Truth. All we can do and should do is to seek Truth.”

St Maximilian Kolbe

“Hold your eyes on God and leave the doing to Him. That’s all the doing you have to worry about.”

St Jane Frances de Chantal



Assumption

In a doubting and unhappy world this feast day stands as a perpetual reminder of one who was not bound down to the earth even while she lived upon it.. It recalls for us that, busy though we might be with this world, we have here no lasting place. Saint Augustine’s words, “You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you,” were never more truly demonstrated than in the life of Mary, who on Assumption Day entered the everlasting place in God for which we all were made.



Last Week’s collection was: £1025.53 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for those who are sick.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for peace and understanding in our country.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—11TH AUGUST 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 11th August

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 12th August

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 13th August

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 14th August

St Maximilian Kolbe

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 15th August

Assumption of the BVM

Holy Mass 12 noon

Holy Mass 7pm

Friday 16th August

Requiem Hannah Fisher
12 noon

Saturday 17th August

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Student for the Priesthood

The Bishop has asked for us to take a student who is preparing for the priesthood for some pastoral experience. Mark McGeehan, who is in his fourth year of training, will join us sometime in September and stay until the new year. While he is here he will be involved with every aspect of parish life but in particular with ministry in our hospitals and schools. I'm sure you'll make him very welcome and encourage him on his journey.

Book Club

Book Club. The next meeting of the group will be held on **Monday 12th August at 2pm in the Cottage.** We will be discussing Kate Atkinson's 2022 novel "Shrines of Gaiety". New members will be very welcome. For further information, contact Vin Allerton by phone (0161-773 3318), text (07305 727900) or email (vinallerton@gmail.com)

Social Events

The Social Committee is pleased to announce some upcoming events. We've tried to arrange something each month until we gauge response.

Friday 4th October—Bingo and Quiz Night
Friday 1st November—Folk Night with Rioghnach Connolly
Saturday 7th December—Choir Concert and Social
Friday 3rd January—Bingo and Quiz Night
Friday 7th February—Ceili
Saturday 1st March—Male Voice Choir for St David's Night
Sunday 16th March—St Patrick's Night

200 Club

If you would like a number for the parish 200 Club, the cost is £36 for the year—12 draws for a prize of £100 plus a Summer Bonus Draw of £100. You can pay by cash, cheque or card at the Piety Stall **from next week.** A book will be opened for names and numbers and once 200 are registered we'll begin. Hopefully, the first draw will be at the end of September.

**ALL PROCEEDS FROM SOCIAL EVENTS AND THE 200 CLUB
WILL GO TOWARDS THE REDECORATION OF THE CHURCH**

Lourdes

Please check the Notice Board in the porch for a message and some photos from our Lourdes pilgrims.

Holiness is Ordinary

Philip Larkin wrote a few good poems. One I like was to celebrate the birth of a child - his friend Kingsley Amis' daughter, Sally. He doesn't write the usual stuff about innocence or love but says this:

May you be ordinary,
Have, an average of talents
Not ugly, not good looking
Nothing uncustomary
To pull you off your balance,
That, unworkable itself,
Stops all the rest from working.

I thought about this poem, recently, when I was reading about Carlo Acutis, the soon-to-be-canonised, apostle of the Eucharist born in London in 1991. I have to admit, he seemed so ordinary to me - an average of talents - certainly no Francis of Assisi or Thomas More. He said: "You go straight to heaven if you participate in the Mass every day." He regarded the Mass as the highway to heaven and his simple prayer after Holy Communion was: "Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!" He made a website of Eucharistic Miracles, advocated frequent Confession, and devotion to Our Lady. He developed Leukaemia and died very young. He seems to have none of the heroics of the great saints.

Could this be his greatness? Our readings today focus on the Eucharist and present us with the prophet Elijah - he is experiencing the most ordinary of things: he's fed up and asks that he might die - he has had enough: Thinks that he's just ordinary and no better than his fathers. And what Elijah does seems ordinary too: Eats, Sleeps, Leaves—about sums it up.

The crowd in the Gospel won't accept Jesus - because he's ordinary, a carpenter's son. They refuse to believe the everyday sign he gives; the sign of bread. Acutis refused to go with the crowd of his day: we who are constantly in search of the more marvellous, the extraordinary and special. He was content to do what generations had done before - but which his own parents did not do: go to Mass and believe in the one who was sent to us in the simplest of signs—Bread. He had the courage to be ordinary, to look at the everyday with the eyes of faith and recognise in the ordinary a true weight of glory.

In the end, I think we must conclude that Bl Carlo Acutis is no lightweight and that he has a profound lesson for us who participate in the Mass each Sunday: The ordinary is the door to holiness through which we are invited into God's presence. The life of Acutis shows that through that door the Lord will come right in and make himself at home.