



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Maureen Holt, Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron, and Johnny Falloon.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: Chi Man Anthony Sung, Peggy Murphy, Peter Moran, Francis McManus.

Anniversaries: Brian Makin, Gordon Doodson.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Do you wish your prayer to fly straight toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving”

St Augustine of Hippo

“Lent is a time of grace, a time for conversion, a time to come home to God.”

St Maximilian Kolbe



“Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. It is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments, and in our neighbour.

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.”

Pope Francis



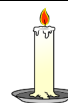
Last Week’s collection was:
£1103.05. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1366.00



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



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp
burns for a spirit of prayer and
repentance in us all.

SIXTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 11th February

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 12th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 13th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 14th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Ash Wednesday

Holy Mass 7pm

Thursday 15th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 16th February

Holy Mass 8am

Holy Mass 12noon

Saturday 17th February

Exposition 11.30am-1pm
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Lent Bags

Pope Francis has said that Lent, “is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ—in his word, in the sacraments, in our neighbour.” This week, some Lent Bags will be available for you to take home. Each will contain a copy of Mark’s Gospel, a prayer card and a Cafod envelope:—the three ‘places’ in which we might encounter Christ. Please take a bag and use its contents to come closer to Christ this Lent. I hope the handy little Gospel will encourage you to read the word, the card might inspire you to pray, and the Cafod envelope urge you to give alms. If we only try, God will bless us greatly with his healing and mercy.

Early Lent Masses

Each Friday, during Lent, there will be an early Mass at 8am. Our Lady of Grace School invites anyone attending to come and join the children for a simple breakfast afterwards.

Stations of the Cross

Unless there’s a funeral, The Stations of the Cross will follow the noon Mass on Fridays during Lent.

Property Committee

The next meeting of the Parish Property Committee will be **Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery.

Baptism Meeting

There are no baptisms during Lent. The next meeting for those who would like to arrange a baptism at Our Lady of Grace will be on **Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm** in the Hall.

Merry Melodies Singing Group - Dementia Support

A support group for dementia people and their carers now takes place in the Cottage. The Group meets every Thursday afternoon, 1-3pm. If you would like more information on the sessions please ring 07521632452.

Hall Toilets

Last weekend, it was disappointing to discover, after all the plumbing work, that the ladies toilets were blocked. The plumber returned on Monday and showed me a video and pictures of the drain: literally full of toilet tissue, sanitary towels and a nappy. Quite rightly, he said that no system can take this without blocking. Since there are now sanitary disposal units, bins and all the necessary facilities, this is difficult to understand. It is also extremely expensive. It’s our common responsibility to look after these facilities—please do your best to be vigilant and challenge any inappropriate behaviour.

Lourdes and Lent

Because today, the 11th February, is also the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, I thought I would mention Fr Pedro Arrupe. He was a remarkable priest who used to be the leader of the Jesuits—the position sometimes called the “black pope”. He was serving in Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped and he looked after many in the aftermath. As a young man, he had wanted to be a doctor but in 1926, after the death of his father, he went to visit the shrine of Lourdes with two of his sisters. He recorded the visit in his diary:

“One day I was on the esplanade with my sisters, a little before the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. A cart, pushed by a woman of middle age, passed in front of us. One of my sisters said: ‘Look at the poor boy in the cart!’ It was a young man of around twenty, all twisted by polio. His mother was reciting the rosary in a loud voice and from time to time, she would say with a sigh ‘Maria Santissima, help us!’ It was a truly moving sight and I remembered the plea with which the sick turned to Jesus: especially the leper who pleaded on his knees. The woman hastened to take her place in the row where the bishop was to pass with the Blessed Sacrament. The moment came when he was to bless the young man with the Host. He looked at the monstrance with the same faith with which the sick, mentioned in the Gospel, must have looked at Jesus. After the bishop had made the sign of the cross with the Blessed Sacrament, the young man rose, cured, from the cart, as the crowd, filled with joy, cried, ‘Miracle!’”

The boy’s life wasn’t the only one changed that day. The healing changed Arrupe’s life too: increased his faith and gave him a sense of purpose and mission. “The one thing that remained fixed in my mind and heart was the image of the host blessing and the boy rising.” And that’s why I mention Fr Arrupe today. On Wednesday this week our Lenten journey will begin—a time during which we are all healed, one way or another, by God’s grace.

Perhaps, then, we might wonder how the healing we have seen or received has changed us. Later in his life, Arrupe described these moments as a sort of falling in love. “Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart and what amazes you with joy. Fall in love, stay in love, it will decide everything.” Let’s pray that the healing that will come to us this Lent will help us to fall in love.