

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

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, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King Dan McCormack and Patrick Horner, Polly Millward.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

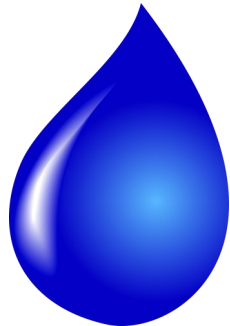
Recently Deceased: Mary Hardman, Kate Prime, Ellen Betty Burns, Mary O’Neill, Robert Mazatelli.

Anniversaries: Hugh and Rita McLoughlin, Victoria McManus, Syd Wilson.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“The chief service I owe you, O God, is that every thought and word of mine should speak of you.”
St Hilary

“I saw the snares that the enemy spreads and I asked: What can get me through? Humility is God’s answer.”
St Anthony of Egypt



Baptism

“Christ, the Light of the World, dwelt first in the womb of the Virgin—who was thus baptised by her Son—and then in the womb of the Jordan; He emerged from both as the Incarnate Word, the Saviour. Those who are baptised thus become children of Mary and sharers of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of her Son.” St Ephrem.

 Last Week’s collection was: £715.07 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the homeless poor.



This week, Our Lady’s lamp burns for a Special Intention.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday 12th January	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 13th January St Hilary	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 14th January	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 15th January	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 16th January	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 17th January St Anthony of Egypt	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 18th January	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

January Quiz and Bingo Night

On Friday 17th January 2025 there will be a Parish Quiz and Bingo Night in the Parish Hall. Tickets are available after Mass and from the House - £2.

Columban Missionaries Appeal

Each year, the Diocese choose a Missionary order and allows them to make an appeal in the parishes. This year, the Columban Missionaries are making the appeal in Salford and we have been given the date of the 25th and 26th of January. That weekend a Columban Father will celebrate the Masses here and speak about their work in Asia, the Pacific and South America.

Dona Digital Collection Plate

We have invested in a digital collection plate which will allow people to make their offering with a bank card. The terminal has been installed at the back of the church and is now operational. If you want to register your card so that your donations are gift aided please **first** make a donation through the website link: <https://donate.mydona.com/our-lady-of-grace-prestwich> As you make this donation you will be asked if you wish to register the card for Gift Aid. If you do this all subsequent donations made in the church with that card will be automatically gift aided.

Unmuted SPUC Youth Conference

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children are hosting a conference for young people from the 21st-23rd of February. The cost of the weekend is £140 and some booking forms are available at the back of church.

Radcliffe Male Voice Choir

Date for your Diary: On Friday 21st February the Radcliffe Male Voice Choir will perform in the church and there will be a reception afterwards in the Hall. More details to follow.

Proposals from the Parish Synod Process

The results of the parish synod meetings held in late 2024 have now been collated and will be summarised in a leaflet that will be available next weekend.

Book Club—Saints and Sinners Poetry

Meeting Mon 13th Jan in the Cottage at 2pm. Please bring along 12 copies of your chosen poem. New members very welcome. 0161 773 3318.

Caro Cardo Salutis

What do you think of the altar rails? Of the threshold to the sanctuary here being marked by gates and a barrier—between the priest up here and the people down there. Do you think of a separation? Imagine a line of division between the holy and that which isn't holy - between the ordained and the baptised? Some women still remember that they only crossed the line on their wedding day - and of course when they came to clean. When I started serving on the altar - it was the job of the youngest altar boy to go down the steps at the Sanctus - and to shut and bolt the gates for the Eucharistic prayer: as if we were closing off the holy part to the people. I hope nobody imagines such a barrier here these days, and especially not today!

If such thoughts should linger - as I suppose they do - on this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I'd like to mention a little phrase from one of the earliest Christian leaders, Tertullian: *Caro cardo salutis*: - the flesh is the hinge of salvation. From the beginning, in the minds of Christians, there was never a barrier only a point of meeting, never a separation but a sharing between the holy and profane, never a division but a hinge between the human and the divine. *Caro cardis salutis* - our flesh, His flesh - the Word that became flesh - is the hinge of that salvation: The line along which the life of God swings open into ours: the point of meeting, the place of Communion: A line along which we all stand in expectation, kneel in wonder and wait - where there is no barrier only access, a gate to holiness.

And on this wonderful Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we remember this especially, don't we? Remember that through His Baptism God invaded our space, went down into its depths and through our Baptism we entered His. Today, we celebrate that all that was on His side has spilled over into ours and all that was on ours has toppled and fallen into His - the flesh is the hinge of His Church and in all its weakness, through Him, the gates of the underworld cannot prevail against it

Christ was baptised to show that all that goes on on his side, now goes on on ours. Think of what went on when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth. Hidden, somewhere in the realms of mystery - the Holy Spirit overshadowed her, the Child took flesh, and was pronounced Holy:- The Son of God, the one who would save the people from their sins; Emmanuel, God-with-us. And today, all that was hidden in that mysterious realm has spilled over into ours at the Jordan - the voice, heard in the secret of Nazareth, booms from an open heaven for all to hear. The Spirit that overshadowed her in mystery, was seen by everyone, to descend on Him - and He was proclaimed publicly as the Beloved. The hinge of his flesh, our flesh, is the door to the sacred which has opened fully and can never close.