



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Norah Madden, Andrea Glorioso, John Bosco Whitehead, Patrick Robert Fox.
Anniversaries: Eric Stansfield, Cornelius Carr, Margaret Carey, Christopher Stephens and Margaret Potter.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS



“Tell them to ask for peace through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God has placed it in her hands.”
St Jacinta of Fatima

“I would like to console Our Lord and after that convert sinners so that they won’t offend Him anymore.”
St Francisco of Fatima



Our Lady of Fatima Hail! Mother of the Lord, Virgin Mary and Queen of the Holy Rosary. Blessed among all women, you are the image of the Church dressed in the Paschal light. You are the honour of our people, you are the triumph over the mark of evil: Prophecy of the merciful Love of the Father, Teacher of the annunciation of the Good News of the Son, Sign of the burning Fire of the Holy Spirit. Teach the eternal truths that the Father reveals to His children

	Last Week’s collection was: £1185.23. Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick and housebound.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for those preparing for their First Holy Communion.
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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 12th May	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 13th May Our Lady of Fatima	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 14th May St Matthias	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 15th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 16th May	Requiem Andrea Glorioso 12 noon
Friday 17th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 18th May	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Quarant'ore—Forty Hours Devotion

This year, the Feast of Corpus Christi falls on Sunday 2nd June. I thought it would be good to mark the Solemn Feast with the traditional devotion of forty hours of continuous prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This ancient practice was begun by St Philip Neri. It represents a time of special waiting: like Christ's time in the tomb, like the forty days of Lent and the forty days in which we wait for the Holy Spirit. These are Forty Hours in which we wait with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and praise him for all that we have received through him in these days: life and love, the Spirit.

We will need to ensure that, day and night, the exposed Sacrament is never alone and that an atmosphere of prayer and silence is maintained in the church through out the Exposition. There are some sign-up sheets on the notice board in the church porch. Please sign up for a slot or two and come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in which the Lord Jesus remains to welcome you at all times: Pray for all you need, especially for peace in our world and give thanks for all you have. Candles will be available.

Confirmation

Bishop John Arnold will visit our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Thursday 27th June at 7pm. More details will follow shortly but for now save the date.

Collection

There will be a second collection today to raise money for some of our young parishioners to go to Lourdes. The collection will be divided between the five young people who have asked to go.

Centenary-Year Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 26th July—1st August. It will be led by Bishop John. Details available at the piety stall.

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Monday 13th May at 2pm in the Cottage. We will be sharing and discussing the poetry of W.H. Auden. Please bring twelve copies of any of his poems (except *Stop All the Clocks*). New Members welcome. Further info 07305727900.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet on Monday 13th May at 7pm in the Cottage. All are welcome to attend.

Chosen, Justified, Glorified

Today's readings are about God's choice and our election to life in Christ, through the Spirit. We have the story of the replacement of Judas from *The Acts of the Apostles* and in the Gospel, Jesus speaks of how he keeps together, as one, those God has chosen, by consecrating them in the Spirit. There is an obvious tension between the specific election of the chosen in Christ and God's desire that all people be saved. Last week, St. Peter told us that he'd come to realise that God does not have favourites - While, this week, we hear of those specially chosen and consecrated in the Spirit to new life in Christ. How, in God's providence and love, can this be?

I remember an argument between my Grandma and her daughter, my auntie Rita: Well, not so much an argument as a fruitful discussion: You didn't argue with Rita! The discussion was around the fact that each time my Grandma was blessed with a new grandchild, she bought him or her a £1 Premium Bond to celebrate their Baptism. And then, each year, on their birthday, she bought them another. By the way, the one she bought me for my Baptism came up on my ordination day and I won £500—but that's another story!

In old age, Grandma said to Rita that she'd come to realise that this was wrong and that she was worried: The older ones were going to end up with more and she was supposed to love all her grandchildren equally; to love them all the same. Auntie Rita's sage response was: "No, mother, you're not right. You can't love them all the same because they're all different!"

That's the same tension that our Scripture readings present to us, isn't it? Like Peter, through life, we come to realise that God does not have favourites - and yet, equally, we hopefully learn that we're each favoured: specially chosen in Christ and consecrated through his Spirit. No one is a favourite and we are all favourites.

Why is this? On the one hand, there are no favourites because we are all equal before God - on the other hand, we are all favourites because each of us is different, yet the same. Together, we are called, justified and glorified by God's grace: consecrated by the Holy Spirit to a common life in Christ with our brothers and sisters. God doesn't love us all the same: because we're all different. God loves us individually but as One, as if we were each the only One, a favourite: God's firstborn.

There's a wonderful Preface in the Missal that speaks of this - that God sees and loves in us what he sees and loves in his own Son. By grace, when God looks at us, He sees Jesus, His only Son. In Christ, we are made one. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit and out of our unique and wonderful variety, we are made the Body of Christ: No favourites - all the Favourite.