

**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Federico Angiolini, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Greg Calleja, 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:** David Nugent, Shirley Higgins, Elizabeth Gallagher, Pat Clarke, Maria Gibbs, Nolianni Burns, Jonathan Straszak, James Collins, Pat Sheader.

**Anniversaries:** Kevin Gibson, Eileen English, Thomas Allen, Damian Allen, Tom Gahan, Bernard Flood, Anna Hughes, Mary Gallagher, Albert Gilbert, Ellen and John Gallagher, Annie and Patrick Kelly.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“The greater and more persistent your confidence in God, the more abundantly will you receive all that you ask.”

St Albert the Great

“Keep the peace of the Gospel with one another and indeed with the whole world.”

Last words of St Hilda of Whitby



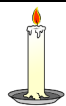
We seem to give them back to You O God, who gave them first to us. Yet, as You didn't lose them in giving, so we don't lose them by their return. Not as the world gives, do You give, O Lover of souls. What You give, You do not take away. For what is Yours is ours also, if we are Yours. Life is eternal and death is only an horizon and an horizon, only the limit of our sight.”



Last Week's collection was: £1306.91 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Holy Souls.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns in remembrance of our war dead.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 12th November	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 13th November	Requiem Shirley Higgins 12noon
Tuesday 14th November	Requiem Maria Gibbs 12 noon
Wednesday 15th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 16th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 17th November	Requiem Elizabeth Gallagher 12 noon
Saturday 18th November	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

## Service of Remembrance

The Annual Service of Remembrance arranged by Paul Williams Funerals will be held at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Prestwich at 7pm on **Monday 13th November**. You are most welcome to attend—and especially if you have suffered a bereavement in the last 12 months.

## Salford Diocesan Synod

If you haven't returned your questionnaire—consulting about favoured times and means for the Big Listen—please post it through the presbytery letter box when you can. If you haven't got a form there are some at the back of the church—in a box on the table where you enter. Thanks.

## Christmas Grand Draw

Christmas Draw tickets are available at the back of church. In each envelope there are two books of tickets and a flyer. Please check the number of tickets in each book—it seems some books only have 4! As long as all your stubs are in the draw—and all monies collected, all will be well.

## Baptism Meeting

**The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is WEDNESDAY 6th Dec at 7.30PM in the HALL.**

## Bottom to Top

Work will continue in the area of the car park during the next couple of weeks. A new gas pipe needs to be fitted to the boiler room. This can happen now that the flooding has been rectified down there. After this pipe has been fitted, we need to get part of the carpark resurfaced so that the barrier can be used again. When the resurfacing takes place a new sensor will be put in. We are going to need the barrier especially when the carpark next door to us closes for redevelopment.

Just when things are getting straight down below—you have to look up above! On Thursday 23rd November a roof specialist will be in attendance with high-level access machinery. Principally, this is to investigate the roof and why it is still leaking—but also it's to do some remedial work on guttering and downspouts. Let's hope they get to the bottom of the problem. As ever, thanks for your patience.

## Finance Committee Meeting

Apologies, to the Finance Committee for my failure to call a meeting before now! Could we please meet on Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm? I'll endeavour to send a message around to this effect. It would be helpful to then have a joint meeting with the Premises Committee as we look ahead.

## Hope and her Daughters

It's time to speak about hope, Christian hope. In this month of November and particularly on Remembrance Sunday, we need to hear a powerful word of hope; a word of contradiction and of promise. Weak words won't provide a contradiction to the estimated 70 million dead of two world wars or offer any promise of peace to a world still seriously troubled by conflict. Just now's not the time for the soft hope of wishful thinking; that leads us to cross our fingers and wait for better times. Now, is the time to speak of the real hope that is ours through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And is it a coincidence that in these days the images that the Scriptures give us of God and our search for God, are female? Last week, Paul spoke of the spread of the good news as being like a mother feeding and looking after her children. This week, Jesus compares the coming of his kingdom to wise and expectant bridesmaids, all ready for the groom—and we have a picture of Wisdom, as she searches for friends and shows them the way of understanding and truth. Gone, are the psalms that cry, “Blessed be the Lord my rock, who trains my arms for battle and prepares my hands for war.” Today, the psalm is the cry of the feminine soul longing for union: “O, God, You are my God, for You I long, for You my soul is thirsting.”

What then, of this thirsting, female, soul which is in us all? For what does this soul long, for what does she hope? Well, St Augustine gave a sermon about Hope and he, too, relied on female images. He said, “Hope, she has two beautiful daughters, Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are and Courage to see that they don't stay that way.” These daughters take after their mother, Hope—and they offer two elements that are part of hope: contradiction and promise. Of these, we might expect a new world.

As Christians, we believe that God has already won the victory over evil and death. We believe that God entered history once and for all, when he raised Jesus from the dead. And we don't just believe this as information. No, we experience the beginnings of this reality: our lamps are lit with the start of this new life. God is our God already but we long for the full union with Him that the Resurrection of Jesus promises us and our world.

In the meantime, we hope. Not waiting with our fingers crossed but ready with a word of contradiction against all evil and with courage to do good: a belief that in the power of the Spirit, we can fill the world with new life. This life entered history with the Resurrection of Jesus. This is the life in which we hope and can spread like mother, feeding and looking after her children.