

# OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL  
11, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1AS  
Tel: 0161 773 2324

Website: ourladyofgrace.co.uk  
Email: philip.caldwell@dioceseofsalford.org.uk



## PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 13th April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 14th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 15th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 16th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Maundy Thursday 17th April	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm
Good Friday 18th April	Stations of the Cross 11am Service of the Passion 3pm
Holy Saturday 19th April	Confessions 11am Blessing of Easter Baskets 12 noon Easter Vigil 8pm

### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

John Higgins, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, Joan Eastwood, William Lyons, Winnie Shelton.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** James Boyle, Robert Millar, Paul Ryan, Christine Hackland.

**Anniversaries:** James Noonan, John O'Dwyer, Monica Rybicki, Pat O'Hanlon, Sarah Brammer, Anne O'Leary.

### WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS


"No one will have any other desire in heaven except what God wills; and the desire of one will be the desire of all; and the desire of all and of each one will be the desire of God." St Anselm

"Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travellers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey".  
St Anthony of Padua

#### The Palm Branch

The palms we receive on this Sunday symbolise the victory we have in Christ. The chosen people saw in the coming of a King, riding humbly on a donkey, the fulfilment of the prophecies. At his arrival they would wave palm branches in triumph—snatching up any greenery to symbolize the new life he was to win. Shaping the branch into a cross, shows forth the source from which this new life will flow.



	Last Week's collection was: £1115.64 Thank you	<b>£££</b>	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the people of Myanmar.		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for all those baptised this Easter.
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## Easter Market

This weekend, after each of the Masses the Social Committee are running a market stall in the Hall. There is marmalade, jams and lemon curd for sale along with some other Easter goodies. All proceeds will go towards the re-decoration fund. Please do head over to the Hall for a few minutes—meet friends have a coffee and make an Easter purchase for our parish.

## Easter Baskets—Święconka

Please come and take part in this Central European tradition dating from the 7th Century. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter food are brought to church to be blessed. Contents can include decorated hard-boiled eggs symbolizing the Resurrection, cake in the shape of a lamb or bread for the Body of Christ; salt for purification; horseradish and vinegar for Christ's suffering, ham for joy and abundance. Design your own basket and come.

## Cafod Myanmar Disaster Appeal—Big Lent Walk

You will have heard about the disaster in Myanmar. If you would like to support the work of Cafod who are helping people of that country to rebuild there are two ways in which you could do this: All donations into the Starving World box will be sent to Cafod. If you prefer, you could sponsor Kathryn Keenan, a fellow parishioner who is doing the Big Lent Walk. You can access her fundraising at:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/kathryn-and-marleys-big-lent-walk>

Or if you find it easier you can place your donation in an envelope marked Cafod Walk and I will ensure it gets to her. So far this Lent the parish has raised £1,247.00 for Cafod.

## Stations with the School

On Tuesday 15th April and Wednesday 16th April at 9.30am children from Our Lady of Grace School will lead the Stations of the Cross in Church.

## Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 14th of April at 7pm. New members are very welcome to come along.

## Book Club

The Book Club will meet in the Cottage on Monday 14th of April at 2pm.

## Life Together

It seems necessary for me to say a few words about the space that we share: The common space where we meet and come together to give praise and thanks to God. It is a significant space for us all. Over the years, people have celebrated some of the most significant events of their lives here, and it's here that all of us continue to celebrate the most significant event of our faith, week by week. Because of this, and for many other reasons, our church is a sacred space. We are all concerned about it, share the cost of the building's up-keep, and are working to improve the physical environment.

But the church we gather in is not only physical. More importantly, the place we share as church is a spiritual space in which all should feel at home and welcome: free to worship. The big question is how to do that *together* and in a way that makes each person valued and respected. How do we maintain a shared space which is spiritually significant to everyone?

Over the last year or so, I've tried to suggest that, outside of the liturgy, our church being a place of quiet, is central to the maintenance of a sacred space: That silence speaks best to everyone of what we hold dearest and in common. And while I believe that this remains true, this is not about a personal preference of mine. The quiet I've asked for has been requested by a good number of different parishioners and for various reasons. I'd like to share some of them so that we can all be clear about what's at stake.

Some parishioners, who either make prayerful preparation or quiet thanksgiving before and after Mass, have asked that others be more respectful of that time and not talk unnecessarily. Other, newer members of our community, have also said that long-standing parishioners talking regularly in the same little groups before and after Mass, makes them feel excluded and unwelcome. A few people, who attend by livestream, have expressed their difficulty in 'joining' us because of the noise before and after Mass. And recently, two families, who have had Requiems here, felt that parishioners were not respectful of the quiet they would have liked.

It is because of these concerns that I asked people not to chat before Mass begins or remain in church to talk when Mass has ended. I think that this is a reasonable request. That said, it must be accepted that some do not. They feel that having a conversation together is a natural extension of what the Eucharist celebrates - and that they should be able to express themselves freely in their own church. Clearly, they feel affronted by any request for quiet. So, we are left with the question of how to maintain a shared space that remains sacred for us all. I don't know the answer but perhaps now that the issues are clearer, we can try to be more respectful of each other: be more willing to yield on our preferences for the sake of life together and to God.