

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Julie Goggins, Stephen Walsh, John Higgins, Cathy Kelly, Michael Roarty, Sean Horan, Judith Allerton, Arthur Porterfield, Arabella Doherty.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Cunningham, Irene Caswell, Arthur Caswell, Paddy & Nellie Heneghan, Jim Arnold, Violet Green and Samuel Vincent Mahood.

## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things will make a person ready for heaven.”

St Camillus of Lellis

“To know much about God but to have tasted nothing of His goodness—what use is that?”

St Bonaventure



There is no genuine conversation without question. Our God questions us, from the first conversation with humanity, where God asks Adam, “Where are you?”, to the risen Lord’s questioning Peter on the shore, “Do you love me?” But humanity questions God too—from Job to the woman at the well. In this process of questioning, humanity is drawn closer and deeper into the life of God and into the eternal conversation of the Trinity. What questions have you to ask of God today?



Last Week’s collection was: £1005.10 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart Chapel will be blocked off for renovation..



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the sick in our parish.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 13TH JULY 2025



## OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Sunday 13th July**

**Holy Masses 9am & 11am**

**Monday 14th July**

St Camillus of Lellis

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Tuesday 15th July**

St Bonaventure

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Wednesday 16th July**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

**Holy Mass 9.30 am**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Thursday 17th July**

**Requiem Stephen Walsh  
12 noon**

**Friday 18th July**

**Holy Mass 9.30 am**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Saturday 19th July**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm  
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm**

## Lourdes–Rome

Thank you for your very generous contribution towards some of our young people going to Lourdes and Rome with the Diocese. I know of six people—some are going on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the sick and some are going to the Youth celebrations in with the Pope in Rome. So far we have raised £1, 296.42. So with a little help from the parish we should be able to give each person £250 towards their costs.

Mark is also going to Lourdes with the Diocese and he and the young people are happy to take with them any petitions you might have and would like to be placed in the Grotto.

## Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held on Monday 14th July at 2pm in the Parish Hall. Our theme is *France and the French*—to mark Bastille Day. We will accept poems by French writers or about France and the French or indeed any poem about revolution. Please bring 12 copies of your chosen poem if you can. New members are very welcome. For further information contact Vin Allerton 07305727900 [vinallerton@gmail.com](mailto:vinallerton@gmail.com) The full programme for 2025 can be seen on the notice board outside church.

## Retirement Mass

Mrs Ursula Harrington, who has taught at Our Lady of Grace School for many years, is to retire at the end of this year. Mrs Harrington is known to generations of children and their parents and has given long and dedicated service to our school. There will be a Mass to celebrate her all her good work on the diocesan feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wednesday 16th July at 9.30am.

## Buildings Update

The lantern roof for above the Sacred Heart Chapel is now complete. It has been made from hard wood in Walker's workshop and will be installed soon. The Portland Stone to finish of the new side entrance has been collected from Portland and the new entrance will also be finished in the next two or three weeks. Pendle Glass are repairing the rear sacristy window at the moment. We are on target and I'm very grateful to the workmen who have been very amenable and hard working. Shortly, we should have more information on any movement that's taking place on the church building and be able to decide on redecoration.

## A Not-So-Straight Answer

How to live out the faith in peace and freedom? That's what many people in the Scriptures want to know. It's what we want to know. And so the questions come: "What is the greatest commandment?" "Will there be many saved?" "How many times must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?" "Is it permissible to heal on the Sabbath or not?" "And who is my neighbour?" Straight questions but they never seem to get a straight answer. Today's Gospel is a perfect example. The Lawyer asks, "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replies with a question: "Which of these proved himself to be a neighbour to the man who fell amongst robbers?"

Why does Jesus never seem to give a straight answer to a straight question? Well, the straight answer to that question is: Because he wants us to be free and at peace! You see, there are some people, who, when they have an answer, they turn it into a rule and make a God of it. Perhaps the lawyer who asks the question in today's Gospel is a bit like that! Certainly, the Priest and the Levite are. They pass by on the other side not because they're lazy or bad but because they want to keep the law at all costs. So, Lawyer, Priest, Levite—and all of us to some extent – find it difficult to live out the faith in peace and freedom. My Dad used to stay up until midnight on Ash Wednesday to eat bacon sandwiches and count out the forty days of Lent, carefully subtracting Sundays and the Triduum.

So instead of a straight answer, Jesus tells a story to help illustrate how we might live the faith in freedom and peace. And the key to this story and the whole of the Gospel is how to live the faith that the law carries but doesn't encapsulate: the law He fulfils. The Samaritan does this by placing the person before the law. He chooses to look after the man who has been attacked not despite the law, or instead of the law but before it—accepting the greatest and first commandment while not being slave to its precepts.

Do you remember when St Joseph hears that his betrothed is with child and he resolves to divorce her quietly? In that moment Joseph decides to choose Mary before the precepts of the Law which would demand her death. Out of love for her and respect for a mystery he does not understand, he chooses the person before the law. Because he does this, the Scriptures call him 'righteous'—deserving of eternal life.

So when the lawyer asks, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus cannot give a straight answer—He can only invite the man to a freedom and peace with the rules that show he has that maturity of faith which sets the person before the Law. After all, our faith is not in the letter but in the Persons of the Trinity who have shown us life and love.