



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Silvana Mantio, 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: John Creem, Rosemary Breakwell.
Anniversaries: Monica Rybicki, Patrick O’Hanlon, Sarah Brammer, John O’Dwyer, Anne O’Leary, Theresa Buckley.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS


“We proclaim this witness to the world so that the joy which is our may reach countless other hearts.”
Pope St. John Paul II


“The glory of God is seen in the human person fully alive.”
St Irenaeus of Lyons



My dearest Lord Jesus Crucified, bending low before Thee, with Mary most holy and with all the Angels and Saints in paradise, I adore the most holy Wound in Thy right Hand. I give Thee thanks for the infinite love, wherewith Thou didst will to suffer so many bitter pains because of my sins which I detest with all my heart; I implore Thee to grant graciously to Thy holy Church victory over all her enemies, and to all her children the grace to walk in holiness in the way of Thy commandments.

 Last Week’s collection was: £971.49. Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in the Holy Land.
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	This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for every member of our parish.
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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 14th April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 15th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 16th April	Requiem Rosemary Breakwell 12 noon
Wednesday 17th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 18th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 19th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 20th April	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet on Monday 15th April at 7pm in the Cottage. Anyone who would like to join this group is welcome to attend.

Social Committee

Thanks to those people who have volunteered to join a small committee to discuss and organise some social events that will draw people together and help raise some funds for our parish. I'll be in touch shortly to arrange our first meeting.

SVP

During the Easter period, the SVP distributed 32 Easter cards and boxes of biscuits to the sick and housebound. They sent Easter cards to Central Council for distribution to 3 prisons. A donation was sent to our SVP twin in India and men's clothes were collected and delivered to Cornerstone.

Gift Aid Envelopes

If you haven't already collected your Gift Aid Envelopes they will be delivered to your address. **If you are a tax payer and would like to be part of our Gift Aid scheme please have a word with me after Mass.** Being able to claim 25% of each donation back from the government makes a considerable difference to our revenue. The arrangements for doing this are very simple.

Confirmation

I've been in touch with the Bishop to arrange a date for the young people of our parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. When I have more details they will be published here. If you do not attend St Monica's School and would like to be confirmed then please make contact with me.

End of Financial Year

If you gave to the parish in the financial year that ended on 5th April – either using gift envelopes or by bank standing order – there is a letter for you, ready for collection from the table near the Sacristy, from this weekend onwards. Please collect your letter, and save us the cost of postage. If you think you should have a letter, but you can't find one, please let us know; ring Vin Allerton on 0161-773 3318 or text to 07305-727900.

The Next Baptism Meeting is on Wed 1st May at 7.30pm in the Hall

Repent and Turn

My dad had a party trick: something he had practiced for years and that he could do perfectly. At family gatherings he'd always end up with a group of young people round him, trying to copy him. He made what he did look simple and then he'd challenge those watching to do the same. His dad had taught him this when he was a boy and he made it look so easy. First he'd stand up straight with his feet together. Then he'd put an old penny behind his left heel and keeping his two feet in place, he'd turn his whole body until he could stoop and pick up the coin, behind him, with his right hand. He'd never even wobble or fall over. Only as an adult did he discover why his dad kept doing these things! He'd had a bayonet wound in his stomach in the First World War and these exercises were like primitive physio, to strengthen the muscles in his stomach and prevent hard, inflexible scars.

I thought of my dad with a gathering of fit young men around him, laughing, and failing at his challenge. I thought about that, when I read about Jesus in the Gospel, amidst his disciples, showing them his hands and feet and challenging them to turn and to live and move like him.

Most of the people mentioned in our readings today have been scarred. Abraham and Isaac, scarred by the offering God expected on Mount Moriah. Jacob, wounded by wrestling with the angel. Peter, by his triple denial, Thomas by his doubts. We're told that all of the disciples are agitated and troubled - and wouldn't they be scarred by the events of Good Friday? And then, peacefully, Jesus comes among them and with a new agility, shows them his hands and feet: - the wounds of his glorious, new body. Interesting, that the resurrection healed those wounds but didn't take them away.

We're all of us scarred by life to some extent aren't we? Things have happened that have hurt us. We carry the marks - but the secret of new life is to bend and turn: not to let these things - these things that we have done and that have happened to us - make us hard and inflexible. We have to be forgiving, to repent and turn and embrace the free movement of the resurrection.

I suppose my grandad could have been bitter about what he suffered in the war - about his wounds. He could have been justifiably resentful, and not moved on. Instead he taught his little boy a trick - a trick that stopped those wounds becoming hard and inflexible - a trick of forgiveness and love that gathered others around him and brought life and happiness in generation after generation. Isn't this what Jesus shows us of his resurrection life? Luke teaches us that He enters that Upper Room with no bitterness about what had happened to him on Good Friday; no resentment about what he'd suffered. "Peace be with you," he says, as he shows them his wounds.