



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, 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:** Ted Jones, Margaret “Rita” McLoughlin.  
**Anniversaries:** Jose Peinador, John Cottam, Victoria McManus, Edward Ryan, Rachel Savill, Geoff Lake and Deceased Members of the Savill and Wrigley Families.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said, groaning, ‘what can get through these snares?’ Then a voice said, ‘humility’.”

St Anthony of Egypt

“Unable to look up because of the blinding light, I fixed my glance on Mary’s hands and in them I could read mercy and pardon.”

Marie-Alphonse Ratisbonne



“Here I am, lacking in merit, trembling and frightened—who am I? I have come to plead before You, even though I am unfit and unworthy to do so. Therefore, I request of You, Master of Forgiveness, Heart-Searcher, Prayer-Listener and Revealer of Deep Secrets, Awesome and Wondrous One: May the path I embark on be successful. Accept my prayer as if it is the Prayer of the Righteous and Innocent.”



Last Week’s collection was: £914.32. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00

The Crib Offerings came to £309.62.



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in the world.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the people of the Sisters of Sion.

**SECOND SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 14th January

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 15th January

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 16th January

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 17th January

Holy Mass 12 noon

St Anthony of Egypt

Thursday 18th January

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 19th January

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 20th January

Exposition 11.30am-1pm  
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm  
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

## Improvements

Work on the gas pipe feeding the church boilers was finished this week. Now, the right amount of gas is feeding the two boilers that heat the church. Perhaps we do need to consider how we heat the church, though, especially for week-day Masses, as it's very expensive to heat the building for an hour in the middle of the day.

## The Friendship Group

The Friendship Group meet in the Hall every other Wednesday 12.30pm—3pm. The group was founded to combat loneliness and offer an opportunity for people to meet and socialise. There's a quiz and bingo, tea and coffee and a chance to mix and chat. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday 24th January and every fortnight afterwards.

## Baptism Meeting

Please note that there will be no Baptism Meeting in the month of January. The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is Wednesday 6th February at 7.30pm in the Hall.

## Crib Figures

I'm very grateful to Fr George Henwood and the Parish of St Gerard Majella, Bristol for kindly donating a set of crib figures to us. Fr George has overseen the closure of the nearby Holy Cross Parish, Bristol and was pleased that these figures have a good home. The figures that were used here previously were more suitable for children and have been welcomed by Mrs Casey for use at Our Lady of Grace Primary School.

Thanks to those who have shown an interest in sponsoring a figure to be restored. It should be around £80 for each figure. If you'd like to sponsor the re-painting of one of the figures please let me know.

## SVP Update

Just to let you know that the SVP were busy over Christmas sending cards to the sick and housebound and to prisoners. They also sent some parcels to nursing homes, some needy families—and made a donation to our twinned conference in India. Monies from the box marked "St Anthony's Bread" is used for the work of the SVP.

## Caritas Appeal

The Diocesan Caritas appeal is scheduled for Sunday 28th January. But you'll remember that just before Christmas Caritas YCW made an appeal for the Bury Christmas dinner and nearly £1500.00 was collected. In light of this there won't be an appeal here this year but if you would like to make a donation to Caritas Salford you can do this through the diocesan website.

## Hineni

Today, we hear from the lips of Samuel, a simple but haunting phrase that's repeated many times in the Scriptures: "Here I am," or in Hebrew *Hineni*. Our translation doesn't really do justice to the meaning of this word and it's deep significance for the three major religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. When God asks Abraham—our Father in Faith—to sacrifice his only son Isaac: In that terrifying and testing moment, Abraham responds to God with the word of faith: "*Hineni*—Here I am." It isn't just that Abraham wants to show that he's physically present to God—he wants to express his complete faith and trust in Him: That he is "all in," ready and willing to respond to God's call and to give himself completely to God's will. "I'm all Yours," catches something of the sense of this word.

When Samuel hears a voice in the night, in his youth and eagerness, he responds: "*Hineni*—Here I am" - Such was his love and respect for Eli that he wanted to be at his disposal. So when Eli realises that it is the Lord who is calling, he knows that Samuel will give himself fully to the Lord. When Moses hears the voice speaking from the middle of the burning bush and when Mary hears the word of the Lord through the Angel Gabriel, they each respond: "*Hineni*—Here I am—let what you have said, be done."

There's much gathered up in the meaning of this word: an awe-filled fear of the Lord, accompanies a humble trust and self-offering: a willingness to surrender and respond to whatever God has in store. To say, "Here I am" to God—in the sense of "*Hineni*"—to be all in with God's plans, demands a certain honesty about ourselves too—no hiding or pretence. Accepting of our poverty and weakness but confident in God's goodness: Surely, this was at the heart of Abraham's answer and of Samuel's, Mary's and Moses' too?

In the Jewish tradition, a singer stands up before the synagogue assembly at New Year and sings a haunting *Hineni* prayer to God on behalf of the people. "Here I am, lacking in merit, trembling and frightened—who am I? I have come to plead before You, even though I am unfit and unworthy to do so. Therefore, I request of You, Master of Forgiveness, Heart-Searcher, Prayer-Listener and Revealer of Deep Secrets, Awesome and Wondrous One: May the path I embark on be successful. Accept my prayer as if it is the Prayer of the Righteous and Innocent."

At the beginning of this new year wouldn't it be a good thing for each of us to make the *Hineni* prayer our own? But as we do so we remember, with joy and relief, that in our tradition, Jesus is the one who makes the *Hineni* prayer for us before God. As He says in the Letter to the Hebrews: "Here I am, send me." And as the Gospel today teaches: we are disciples of the Lamb, the One who makes us perfectly present to God.