

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad, Kevin McCormick, Ellen Sumaya.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Sean Galvin, Anna Juster, Seamus Carty.

**Anniversaries:** Robert Broe, Betty Gelder.

## WISDOM OF THE SAINTS

“The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire.”

St Augustine of Hippo

“We are being formed by our desires and our resolutions.”

St Francis de Sales

“God would never inspire me with desires that cannot be realised. Despite my littleness I hope to be a saint.”

St Therese of Lisieux

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul desires for you, my God. My soul longs for God, the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

My tears have been my food day and night—while people say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’ By day the Lord directs my desire, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.”

Psalm 42



Last week's collection was £1002.13

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



This week the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for those on half term.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for those who are sick.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 15TH FEBRUARY 2026



## OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 15th February

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 16th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 17th February

Shrove Tuesday

Requiem Sean Galvin 12 noon

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday

Holy Mass 12 noon

Holy Mass 7pm

Thursday 19th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 20th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 21st February

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

## Lent

Lent begins this week. On Wednesday there will be Mass with the distribution of ashes at 12noon and 7pm. The packs available at Mass today are to help with this holy season of preparation. There's some seeds to plant, a little booklet to read, some prayer cards to use on Ash Wednesday and throughout the forty days, and the CAFOD donation envelope.

## Leaving

Next weekend will be my last at Our Lady of Grace. After the 11am Mass on Sunday there will be the usual tea and coffee and I'll be in the Hall to say goodbye. If you can please drop in it would be good to see you before I go.

## St Patrick's Celebration

The OLOG Social Committee have arranged for a St Patrick's Night Celebration to take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 14th March at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available soon but because of the space required for dancing, numbers be limited to 90. Entrance by ticket only—price £10.

## Fr Benjamin

The bishop has arranged for Fr Benjamin to look after the parish until the convalescence of Fr Gerard is complete. Service might not be as usual but he will do his best in the meantime. Fr Gerard hopes to be at OLOG in time for the St Patrick's Night Celebration.

## LEPRA

You will remember that the offerings made at the crib this year were collected for Lepra. £658.00 was donated to help those still suffering from leprosy in our world. This amount will be forwarded to Lepra on your behalf.

## New Headteacher for Our Lady of Grace

The Governors of Our Lady of Grace RC Primary are pleased to announce the appointment of a new headteacher for the school. Mr Tom Collins, who has been serving as Acting Head for some months, was successful in his application and will take over as Headteacher after a well deserved half-term break. This is great news for our parish and I'm delighted to welcome Mr Collins into his new position before I move on. Tom is an experienced, respected and much-loved teacher and I'm sure the school will not only be safe in his hands but will flourish under his leadership.

## Heart's Desire

"Oh, you'll never get to heaven in a biscuit tin because a biscuit tin has got holes in." You'll never get to heaven in a biscuit tin! The Christian writer, C.S. Lewis disagrees. When he was a small boy in nursery his brother brought him a present. In the lid of a biscuit tin he'd made a little garden for his favourite baby brother, Jack. Later, Lewis remembered:

*Once in those very early days my brother brought into the nursery the lid of a biscuit tin which he had covered with twigs and flowers so as to make it a toy garden or a toy forest. That was the first beauty I knew. What the real garden had failed to do, the toy garden did. It made me aware of nature... as something cool, dewy, fresh .... as long as I live my imagination of the Garden of Paradise will keep something of my brother's toy garden.*

Later, when Lewis thought of this experience of the biscuit tin it made him think:- what exactly had his brother given him and what did he really want? He didn't just want to remember the lovely experience he had had in the nursery and he certainly didn't want the toy biscuit-tin garden back. What he had received on that day as a four-year-old was the gift of desire - a desire for what is beautiful and joyful - it had come to him from his brother in a tin but really the gift was from God.

The first of our readings, today, is all about that desire - and what we must do to keep it alive in our hearts. And the Gospel is all about the fulfilment of that desire and the fact that nothing should be compared to the deepest desire of the human heart.

As an older man, like St Augustine before him, Lewis reasoned that there are three ways of responding to the desires that seize us. Foolishly, we can say that they come from the things themselves - someone we love, hot buttered toast, or a holiday. Or cynically, we can say these desires are just a cry to the moon and will always meet with disappointment. But the way of the Christian, says Lewis, is to wonder - to wonder why our hearts have desires that this world meets but cannot satisfy. These thoughts make us realise that in us is a desire for another country: somewhere we will only find after death - the joy of heaven.

Surely, part of what Jesus is teaching us in today's Gospel is that we are too easily pleased - settling for the pleasure of proximate things rather than holding out to be satisfied by the whole hog: He wants us to go for the whole. This is why Lewis concludes that Our Lord finds our desires *too weak* not too strong. "*We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.*"