



**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

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Federico Angiolini, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Greg Calleja, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Shirley Higgins, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: Gwen Wade, Stephen Makin, Michael Giblin, Wilfred Usher, Geoffrey Tomlinson and Celeine O’Hara.

Anniversaries: Marie Crook, Clarice and John Towey, Tina Burke, Gerard Mullen.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“My love reigns in suffering, it enjoys itself in unity and triumphs in humility.”

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

“It is better to be silent and true—than to speak and not be true.”

St Ignatius of Antioch



“Often I have felt overwhelmed by the terrible things that happen in the world and by the sufferings that people endure. Over my long years, I came to know this and now never doubt it: There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.”
Sr Lucia of Fatima



Last Week’s collection was £859.90 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders:£1366.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in Israel and Gaza.



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

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 15th October	Holy Masses 9am &11am
Monday 16th October St Margaret Mary	Holy Mass 12noon
Tuesday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 18th October St Luke	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 19th October	Holy Mass 10am Service Brendan Loftus 12 noon
Friday 20th October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 21st October	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 6-6.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 7pm

Mass for the Sick and Housebound

Today, we are delighted to welcome our parishioners who can't normally make it to our Sunday Mass because of ill health and infirmity. You are most welcome to our 11am Mass today—I hope you'll enjoy being with us, meeting up with friends and having something to eat and drink afterwards.

Lourdes Sponsored Walk

Jamie and Helen made it! 33 miles from Salford Cathedral to Liverpool Cathedral were completed and over £1,300 has been raised. Thank you to everyone from Our Lady of Grace who supported them.

A Synod for Our Diocese

Pope Francis has opened the XVI General Assembly of Bishops in Rome—a Synod about synodality: that is, about how we walk together and listen to each other on our Christian journey as God's People, the Church. We have been invited to pray for this meeting and for the Holy Spirit's help.

In our own Diocese of Salford, Bishop John has decided to open a similar, parallel synod—so that, at a local level, we may begin a process of coming together and listening to each other. This weekend there is a **Pastoral Letter** so that we can hear directly from the Bishop about our Synod.

Next week our own parish representatives will speak about how we hope to begin **A BIG LISTEN** in our own parish so that we may begin our own reflection on life in the church today. I hope we can be all ears as we prepare to listen to the Holy Spirit and each other.

Christmas Fair

Thanks to everyone who came along to the meeting about the Fair last Thursday evening. We had a very successful meeting—decided on the date and time of **Saturday December 2nd at 12.30pm**—for our parish Fair and were able to make initial plans for the raffle, stalls and refreshments. If there's anyone who couldn't make it to the meeting but would like to be involved on the day please drop me an email or let me know. Thank you.

Young Christians Group

I am happy to announce that we have made some progress in getting together a group for young people. Fr Steven and I think it would help to have a joint group between ourselves and St Bernadette's and we have arranged a meeting with the YCW and any young people who may be interested to take place on **Thursday Nov 2nd at 7.30pm** in the Lourdes Room at Saint Bernadette's. If you would like to be involved in this new venture please let me know. I'm sure we will be able to arrange transport should anyone need it.

The Wedding Feast

Each time we go to Mass and just before we receive Holy Communion, we rejoice in the blessing of being invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Showing the divided, sacred Host—the food of the banquet—to the people, the priest says: “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” Here, the Mass quotes from Chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation—and the priest echoes the words of the angel who says, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” I mention this because it's this little section of the Book of Revelation that helps us to understand the frightening words in today's Gospel: “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

The guest is thrown out of the banquet for not wearing a wedding garment—the punishment seems unnecessarily severe: to be bound, excluded and left to suffer alone—and all for transgressing the dress code of the wedding!

Except, the Book of Revelation explains the details of the wedding garment: “Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen—because her linen is made from the good deeds of the saints. The angel said, “Blessed are those who are invited ...”

It was the custom for the wedding party to wear a garland of cloth that matched the bride's dress. Christ's bride is the church—and we, the baptised, his wedding party—if we are to belong to him, to be united to him—are to be clothed in good deeds. The dazzling white of our wedding garment is the goodness and love that we practice in daily life.

In fact, the word's of our Lord in today's Gospel should stir up some deep questions for us—and stimulate a fear of the Lord that brings us wisdom. Each time we wonder at the blessing of our being invited to the supper of the Lamb, each time we look to the sacred Host—the Lord's Body divided and given for us—we must also wonder at our worthiness to be united with Him. Simply holding out our hands or saying: Lord, Lord, is not enough—to be welcome at the table of the Lord, the wedding feast of the Lamb—we must have clothed ourselves in the good deeds of the Gospel and become like Christ.

St Paul puts it beautifully: “Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.” That's the garment we cannot do without.