

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Chris Burke, Christine Mulligan, Gaynor Lomax, Beverley Taylor.

Anniversaries: Jeffrey Taylor, Connie Farrugia, Rose O'Malley, William Bates.

CHRIS BURKE'S REQUIEM WILL BE ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"The soul is the greening life-force of the flesh, for the body grows and flourishes through her."

St Hildegard of Bingen

"The first great truth is now established: a good death depends on a good life."

St Robert Bellarmine

The Triumph of the Cross

As they were looking on, so we too gaze. He bows his head as if to kiss you. His heart is made bare open, as it were, in love to you. His arms are extended that he might embrace you. So, his whole body is displayed for your redemption. Ponder, for a moment, how great these things are. Let all this be weighed up in your mind: as he was once fixed to the cross in every part of his body—so may he be fixed now in every part of your soul." St Augustine



Last Week's collection was: £982.49 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for those living with cancer.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for a Special Intention.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 15TH SEPT 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 15th September

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 16th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Ss Cornelius and Cyprian

Tuesday 17th September

Communion Service 12 noon

Wednesday 18th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 19th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 20th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Martyrs of Korea

Saturday 21st September

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm

St Matthew

Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Friday Quiz and Bingo Night

Please come along to the first of our parish social events: the Friday Quiz and Bingo Night on the 4th October, 7.30pm. Tickets are £2—which covers entry and the quiz. Bingo strips can be purchased on the night. Tickets available at the back of church after Mass and from the Presbytery.

200 Club

All 200 Club numbers have now been sold. The first draw will take place on the last weekend of the month at the end of the 5pm Mass.

Sacramental Programme

The Sacramental programme will begin again shortly. If your child doesn't attend Our Lady of Grace School and you would like them to make their First Holy Communion here, please contact me. The sessions will take place on a series of Sundays from 9.50-10.50am in the Hall.

RCIA

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or in knowing more about your faith please let me know. We will be looking to start a weekly course on Wednesday evenings from October. The more the merrier!

Caritas Salford

Caroline Johnston, who attends our Vigil Mass, is running the Manchester Half-Marathon for Caritas—helping those who are less fortunate. You can donate to their JustGiving Page by clicking <https://www.justgiving.com/caritassalford> and searching “Caroline Johnston”. You can also make a donation in an envelope at the Presbytery.

WiFi

Finally, and after much trouble, we have WiFi at the back of the church and in the parish Hall. This should mean the card readers will work effectively now and anyone hiring the Hall can have the use of WiFi.

Holiday

I'll be away for the next two weeks on holiday—Mark will be holding the fort and a number of different priests—to whom I'm very grateful—will offer Mass and be available in an emergency.

PRAYER GROUP MONDAY 16TH SEPT—7PM—COTTAGE

A Name and a Place

The Gospel tells us, that at a place called Caesarea Philippi, the apostle, Peter, names Jesus as the Christ. Today, the location is called Banyas—which is a corruption of the place's ancient name, Paneas. King Herod, the one who met the Magi, was so impressed by the beauty of this spot, that he built a temple there to the god of nature, Pan—hence Paneas. When Herod died, this part of his kingdom passed to his son, Philip. He loved the area too—so much that he made it the capital of his kingdom, re-naming it after the Emperor and himself: Caesarea Philippi. One place but lots of names!

What made the place so attractive? The rough landscape and a river. Caesarea Philippi is surrounded by rocks and a beautiful, cool spring emerges from a cave there. Though earthquakes have altered things since the time of Jesus, a huge amount of water—about twenty cubic meters per second—still emerges from a cave and large rocks shelter the spot. The huge, jutting stones and fresh, cold water make it a place of primordial, elemental beauty. And, no doubt, this is why, from ancient times, it was seen as a place of pagan and political power.

In this place, Jesus asks his followers, “Who do you say I am?” In this place, he changes Simon's name and gives him authority. Why here? Presumably, because the location gave a beautiful, bold image of what Jesus wanted to say: “You are Peter,” he said, under a huge, solid and sheltering rock. “And the gates of the underworld will not prevail against it,” he said, as the powerful, life-giving stream roared out from under the rock. At once, the place gave a sense of power and life to his words.

And in that place—where a weak, vassal king had named his capital, Jesus asks: “What name do you give me?” And what name could be attributed to this attractive, powerful, miracle-working man? Suddenly, Jesus must have seemed to Simon as someone more than Pan, Herod, Caesar or any man. And so Simon, the fisherman answers: “You are the Christ!”

Pope Francis has called this time of year, the Season of Creation. It stretches from the 1st of September to the 4th of October, the Feast of St Francis: A time when we should be conscious of ourselves standing in the midst of our world—in all its beauty and power. We have the rain and the wind, sudden sunshine and the occasional winter blast. We have the light, the drawing evenings and the beauty of the sky. Like Simon Peter, in that beautiful spot we have a question echoing in our hearts: “Who do you say I am?” And we know, deep down, it's not Pan or any man that made all that we see, experience, and enjoy: it is the Christ.

In the shelter and strength of the church and with the power of the life that has flowed through it for centuries—we too can profess his name in faith.