

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Roxine Callow, 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, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Seamus O’Hanlon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Lawrence McLaughlin, Ken Ruddy, Robert Tonge, Teresa Caveney, John Smith, Kathleen Ann Waite, Noel Sloyan.

Anniversaries: Winifred Billington, Chris Makin, Isabel Rosos, Mervyn Turnberg, Sue Bamber, John O’Shea, Anne Graffy, Paul Copple, Patrick Holland, Tim Johnson, Stephen Whelan, Maurice Slack, Bridget Lee, Mary Anne Allen . Joyce Kuc, Michael O’Beirne, Sean O’Brien, Harry Caswell.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world.”

St Aloysius Gonzaga

“God can no more withhold his grace from a soul ready to receive it than the sun can fail to shine through an open door.”

St John Fisher



Our heart—the heart of a human being - is our soft centre and it has one desire: to open. The heart represents our best attempt at selflessness, our capacity to open to another. It contains our ability to be moved and to reach out and sometimes we can be surprised by its depths.

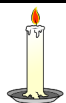
Contemplation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us of these depths, of our vast potential for love and of the lengths to which the human heart will go. To look to an image of the Sacred Heart in this month or whenever is to look to our best reflection in a mirror and to see an openness and love that can be ours.



Last Week’s collection was: £1070.59. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for Christine Child who celebrates her 90th Birthday.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—16TH JUNE 2024



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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 16th June	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 17th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 18th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 19th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 20th June St Alban	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 22nd June Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	First Communion Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Confirmation

Bishop John Arnold will visit Our Lady of Grace to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Thursday 27th June at 7pm. Any young people who do not attend St Monica's need to register with me in order to be Confirmed on that day.

Tablet Magazine

The second edition of the *Tablet* Catholic magazine—part of a trial run to test out popularity is here. The parish will receive 15% of all cover sales. If you're interested copies are available at the piety stall today.

Parish Social Committee

We had a very successful first meeting of the Parish Social Committee where we talked about a way forward. We decided that our purpose was twofold: **to organise social events to help bring parishioners together and to raise money for the eventual redecoration of our church.** We have some ideas but we'd like to know what you think and what you would like too. At the back of church there are some sheets listing our ideas and a box for suggestions. Please take a moment or two after Mass to make a contribution and have your say.

Two Hundred Club

One of the suggestions made at the meeting was for a Two Hundred Club. We thought that at a cost of £3 a month—if we get 200 people—the draw would generate £200 in prizes and £200 revenue per month. It would also allow for an additional one-off bumper draw which would yield a £1200 prize and the same amount in revenue.

All monies raised by the Social Committee will go to a fund for the redecoration of the church. Please indicate with a tick on the separate sheet whether you would be interested in joining the 200 club each month.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in the parish at the 11am Mass on Saturday 22nd June. On that day there will be no morning confessions or Exposition. Please pray for the children who made their First Communion yesterday and for those who will make it on Saturday.

Italian Procession

This year, the Madonna del Rosario Procession will take place on Sunday 7th July. Details of arrangements for our parish to follow.

When does Mass begin?

Mass begins long before it begins. It begins well before the bell. I often think of when Mass began for my Mum—putting clothes out for seven children the night before, combing someone's hair and just getting us all out through the door. I think of when Mass began for my Dad getting ice of the car to take two elderly neighbours before he came back for us. I think of it when I see young families coming now or elderly people who have to arrange a taxi or set off early to be here.

And then there's the motivation—when we feel settled at home and wonder will I go or leave it until later. There's the weather and our mood—where we are up to this week or just now in our lives. There might be sickness or bereavement, anxiety or pressure of time. St Ignatius Loyola encourages us to think of God watching us as we prepare to go and pray:—the long haul that there can be to make it here in body, mind and heart. He would have us think of the compassion that God has for us in our struggle to be present.

Yet, for God this Mass began with the creation of the world and the history of the human race; that's when God first started to put all in place—when first he called on us to come: Planted a seed, delighted in its sprouting—saw the ear and the full grain ripen. With immense love God has watched over the plan to make us present to him, here, today. How? We do not know!

When does Mass begin? A long time before it begins—for centuries we come and there's a deep theological significance hidden in the arrival of each one of us here, together, today. There's a mystery to our assembly, a mystery to this Mass that stretches back a long time before it began with the bell.

Our word for church—*ekklesia*—means a calling out, a calling together and the mystery of that calling in each of us is what today's readings celebrate. We are those who have been called out and called together—a divine reality has brought us and behind each one of us stands a magnificent personal story of grace: a story not of our making but the work of God.

So who, actually, is assembled here today? You might see the same few faces and some more—a given group whose stories have brought them—but hidden in the mystery of this assembly is another bigger gathering. What we do together while we're here - to bless the God of all creation, to remember the church throughout the world, those who have gone before us and all in heaven—is to realise that this Mass began long before we might have thought and that we are part of a gathering beyond our expectations.

And it's because of this that we are always full of confidence—full of the confidence of a people that God has called and chosen: A people that he has sent on a journey that will ultimately bring us all together again in God.