

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**  
 Pope Francis, John Higgins, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, Joan Eastwood, William Lyons.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**  
**Recently Deceased:** June Doherty, Mary McNelly, Anthony Hindley, Dan McCormack, Kevin Kennedy.  
**Anniversaries:** Una Anderson, Catherine O’Shea, Anna O’Hanlon, Edward Francis Ryan, Ivy Ryan, Winnie Potts, Colette Maria Parnell.


**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity”  
 St Patrick

“We only know from the Gospel one word that St Joseph definitely said: He said the name Jesus because that’s what the angel said to name the child”.  
 St John Paul II



**The Spirit Transfigures Everything**  
 “Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away, Christ stays in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the Church is simply an organization, authority a matter of domination and mission mere propaganda. Without the Spirit our liturgy becomes nostalgia. But in the Holy Spirit, God is with us and all this is given the life of the Resurrection.”

	Last Week’s collection was: £1046.72 Thank you	<b>£££</b>	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick and housebound.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for a Special Intention.
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**OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Sunday 16th March</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 17th March</b> <b>St Patrick</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 18th March</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 19th March</b> <b>St Joseph Husband of Mary</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 20th March</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 21st March</b>	<b>Holy Mass 8am</b> <b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Saturday 22nd March</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm</b> <b>Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm</b>

## Walsingham Priests' Retreat

Thanks to Canon Tony McBride who said Mass here this past week. I was giving a priests' retreat at Walsingham. They were a very nice group of about thirty priests from all over the country. Of course I prayed for our parish while I was there and offered Mass for your intentions at the shrine.

## St Patrick's Night Celebration

There's a number of returned tickets for the St Patrick's Night Celebration. If you are free and would like to come along please see me after Mass for a ticket.

## Prayer Group

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will take place in the Cottage on Monday 17th March at 7pm. New members always welcome.

## Dates For Your Diary

The Social Committee are pleased to announce some up-coming events so that you can keep the dates free should you wish to come along.

<b>Quiz and Bingo Night</b>	<b>Friday April 4th at 7.30pm</b>
<b>Magic Night</b>	<b>Friday May 9th at 7.30pm</b>
<b>Country &amp; Western Night</b>	<b>Friday June 13th at 7.30pm</b>

## Friday Early Morning Mass

Each Friday in Lent there is an early morning Mass at 8am with the children and staff from Our lady of Grace School. Parishioners are most welcome to attend and are invited up to school for a quick breakfast afterwards.

## First Confessions

After school on Friday 21st March, the children who are part of this year's Sacramental Programme will make their First Confession at Our Lady of Grace. Please keep them in your prayers.

## Wedding

On Saturday 22nd March at 2pm Sam Ward and Hannah D'Orsi Hamnett will be married at Our Lady of Grace. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

## He Will Show You The Things To Come

That's one of the jobs of the Holy Spirit, isn't it, revealing the future? St John says this in his Gospel — "He will show you the things to come (Jn 16:13)." But it's something we experience all the time in the sacraments and something our readings focus on this Sunday. We said we were going to focus on the work of the Holy Spirit this Lent, so today, let's consider how the Spirit continually takes us back to the future.

We would be lost without the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our Wisdom and our Guide. He is our Advocate who comes alongside us on our journey and shows us the way. And this is something we are especially conscious of in Lent. One of the ways in which the Spirit guides us is by showing us—actually making present—the future; the things that are to come, one day, in completeness. Without the Holy Spirit, Jesus would be like any other great figure of the past and the Kingdom He came to establish like one of the great empires that have passed away. But God the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and set Him over a Kingdom that will never pass away. The Spirit established an eternal future—the life of heaven—and the Spirit makes that future present and guides people there.

How? Well, the Spirit applies all the merits of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus to every age and generation. The Spirit takes the goodness of Jesus and gives it to us now. Have you never experienced this? Of course we have! Have you never felt time stand still in a moment of joy? Have you never known a time of peace which allowed all trouble to simply slip away? Each time we celebrate the sacraments we experience something of the life of heaven now—a glimpse of the things that are to come. In their faithful love, through better and worse, couples touch that eternal life. Holy Communion gives us a foretaste of eternity now and Confession a glimpse of the forgiveness and reconciliation that will part of the everlasting life of heaven.

And neither is this just a 'churchy' thing! The new life of birth and the seasons, the reality of friendship and laughter—all the good things of life are a gift from the future bounty that God has in store for us in heaven.

When Abraham looked up at the stars and had a glimpse of his inheritance to come and when Peter, full of wonder, saw Jesus full of light, they had both stepped into a future that is the Spirit's work. And when we pray, when we fast, when we give alms—when we do any little Lenten work we are trying to join this great work of the Spirit: trying to step into the future and make the Kingdom come. Surely, this is another reason why Lent is a season of joy and new life.