

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: John Gibb, Joanne Duffy.

Anniversaries: Tony O'Hanlon, Ian Kirkpatrick, Mary Corkill, James Brown, Alice Brown, Mollie Watson.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"There are those who seek knowledge for its own sake—that's curiosity. Some seek it to be thought wise—that's vanity. Some seek it to serve God—that's love."
St Bernard of Clairvaux

"What will it cost you, O Mary, to hear our prayer. What will it cost you to answer what we ask, you who are Queen?"
St Pius X



"I ask Your pardon for my unbelieving brothers and sisters, and I'm willing to eat the bread of sorrow as long as You may wish. For love of You I will sit at that table of bitterness where these poor sinners take their food, and I will not stir from it until You give the sign. But may I not say in my own name, and the name of my guilty brethren: "O God, be merciful to us sinners!" Send us away justified. May all those on whom Faith does not shine see the light at last! "

St Therese of Lisieux



Last Week's collection was:
£1336.01 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 17TH AUGUST 2025



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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 17th August

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 18th August

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 19th August

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 20th August

St Bernard of Clairvaux

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 21st August

St Pius X

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 22nd August

Queenship of Mary

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 23rd August

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

200 Club

If you **did not have** a number in last year's 200 Club but would like to be part of the monthly draw for 2025/26 then please have a word with me or Mark after Mass. Renewal for this year is now complete and there are just a few numbers left if anyone would like to register.

Tea and Turf—Save the Date

The Parish Social Committee are pleased to announce an exciting new event for the Autumn. A group of parishioners—former members of OLOG PTA and old hands at arranging memorable parish events—are organizing a social in aid of the Redecoration Fund. This will take place on **Sunday 12th October** from 3pm onwards. It will comprise a 'Slattery's' Afternoon Tea and an Afternoon at the Races: Our very own Ascott to lift your spirits as the nights draw in. More details will follow soon but please save the date for now.

Quiz and Bingo Night

The next Social will be a Quiz and Bingo Night facilitated by Sue and Joanne from the Friendship Club on Friday 5th September at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £2 each after Mass.

Buildings Up-Date

Things have not quite gone as expected this week. The new lantern roof has been installed above the Sacred Heart Chapel and some progress has been made on the side entrance but not a lot. There was a delay in the delivery of wood board to protect the sanctuary so commencement of the scaffolding of the sanctuary has been delayed. Well, it is August!

Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will recommence on Wednesday 20th August 2025.

Honey Badgers Beatles Concert

On Sunday 7th Sept from 2.45pm The Honey Badgers will perform a Beatles tribute concert in aid of Duchenne UK Muscular Dystrophy. The organisers welcome parishioners who might like to attend—£5 entrance cash on the door.

Fire to the Earth

The centrepiece in the chapel of the English College, Rome, is a sixteenth-century painting by Durante Alberti. It hangs on the wall above the altar. God, the Father and the Holy Spirit present the body of the crucified Son. Blood flows down from Christ's body onto a globe – igniting it into a fiery blaze. The painting offers a visual depiction of the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: words which form the college motto: "I am come to cast fire on the earth." The blood of Jesus is testament to the fire of God's love. It gives witness to the depth of God's love for the world.

In the time of Elizabeth I, when the Catholic faith was outlawed in our lands, men trained in this college so that they could return to their homeland and minister to believers there in secret. Many were arrested and killed for the faith they showed. And so, their blood also became a testament to the fire of God's love – gave witness to the depth of His love for the world. When news reached Rome of the murder of a priest on mission, the students would gather beneath this painting and sing God's praises. Forty-four young priests were martyred for the faith – they came back to ignite the fire and it spread quickly in the hearts of the people.

So, if we find the question of Jesus in the Gospel—"Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth?" - strange and unpalatable – perhaps we should think again of the men and women of the Elizabethan age. How deep did their love of God go if they were willing to be separated from their families for it? Households were divided – quite literally— father against son, mother against daughter.

And when we think about our own lives, we might relate to the struggles Jesus speaks about in this passage. Many of us have friends or family members who do not share our faith. These situations often lead to uncomfortable conversations and heartaches as differing views on life and faith create shadows on loving relationships. We may feel alone or misunderstood, struggling to maintain our convictions while yearning for familial acceptance. Jesus, throughout His ministry, often faced opposition from His own people, including family. Even though Luke 12:53 might be a sobering truth about familial tension, it also offers solace. We join in a tradition of believers who have faced the same challenges. Many who have walked the faith journey before us have dealt with similar situations and can stand alongside us. Our commitment allows us to show love, patience, and kindness to those with whom we might disagree.

God's love has not changed. The blood of Jesus is still offered in sacrifice for the world—it still brings fire to our lives so that we too might join the great cloud of witnesses and give testimony to God's love.