

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Caroline Williams, Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: David Millward, Martin O'Brien, Maureen McGovern, Margaret Kelly, Mike Kennelly.

Anniversaries: Bernadette Durkin, Ivy Ryan, Patrick O'Brien, Una Anderson.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"Freedom consists not in doing what we like—but having the right to do what we ought."

St John Paul II

"Be at peace with your own soul—then heaven and earth will be at peace with you."

Bl Isaac of Stella



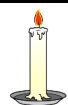
I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation. I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism,
Through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial,
Through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension,
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.



Last Week's collection was:
£942.95. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1366.00



This week, the Sacred
Heart Lamp burns for the
health of Pope Francis.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for all who are receiving
cancer treatment.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—17TH MARCH 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 17th March

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 18th March

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 19th March

St Joseph, Husband of the BVM

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 20th March

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 21st March

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 22nd March

Holy Mass 8am

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 23rd March

Exposition 11.30am-1pm
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Joint Penitential Service

On Wednesday, this week—March 20th at 7.30pm—there will be a joint Penitential Service for our parish and the parish of St. Bernadette's. This is an opportunity to prepare ourselves for Easter. It's increasingly difficult to arrange for a number of priests to be present for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation—so Fr Steven and I thought we would try a joint service so that we can ensure this opportunity for our parishes in Lent and Advent.

Prayer Group

On Monday 18th March at 7pm in the Cottage the Prayer Group are pleased to welcome Daniella Stevens to give a talk and join the group in prayer. As usual anyone is very welcome to attend.

Cafod Lent fast Collection

The total amount raised for the Cafod collection so far is £1,680. This is made up of £423 from the Starving World box and a total of £1,257 from the collection. There's still time to put a donation in—there are envelopes at the back—but please return them as soon as possible so we can send the money away. Thank you for your generosity.

Finance and Buildings Report

We've had some very positive feedback on the Report that was issued last weekend and people have expressed their appreciation of a clear and transparent report on our situation. I'd like to thank the members of both committees for their help in putting this together.

One question was in regard to the Standing Order figure on the newsletter. This is an approximate figure—but given that there have been some changes in giving we will make sure this is recalculated and updated.

St Matthew's Passion

Tickets are still on sale for Bach's St Matthew Passion which will be performed by Manchester Baroque on Good Friday, 29th March at 4.30pm. It may be a tight squeeze for those who wish to attend the 3pm Service but I'm sure will prove to be a wonderful experience. Book online.

Children's Liturgy

Next Sunday, which is Palm Sunday: March 24th there will be a Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass in the Hall. If the children could gather at the side door after the procession with palms—they will then go for their own liturgy. Parents are always welcome to accompany them should you wish.

The Deer's Cry

This year, the Fifth Sunday of Lent falls on St Patrick's Day: And this is a happy coincidence because the Saint's life offers a window on our readings and also helps us to receive the message that God has for us today.

Week by week, this Lent, we have reflected on the Word of God in light of the instruments of the Passion—the *arma Christi*. And of course, St Patrick is famous for his breastplate: a beautiful hymn that he composed in praise of the strength and protection that he found in God. — *I arise, today, through a mighty strength, the strong name of the Trinity ...* — Naturally, the hymn makes us think of the armour of God. Like Jeremiah, Patrick had come to know the Lord and was bound to God by a strong covenant of the heart. But *Breastplate* isn't the only name given to his hymn. It's also known as *The Cry of the Deer*—and it's this second title that provides the key to our Gospel.

In the fifth century, Patrick landed in Ireland, quietly, at Colpe. He arrived with his followers at a time of great faithlessness. The people lived in fear under the rule of the pagan High Kings of Tara—and anyone who would not follow their dark and unpredictable gods, received terrible punishment. On the Hill of Slane, Patrick lit the Easter fire, celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the Resurrection. He enraged the druids and their king—who summoned him to battle. But when the bandits came upon Patrick and his followers, they beheld only a gentle, roe deer and her fauns.

This is surely a symbol of how St Patrick disarmed the enemy by preaching the paradox given to us in today's Gospel: "I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls to the ground and dies—it remains but a single grain. But if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."

This second name for Patrick's hymn, teaches that strength of faith does not arise from steely, self-preservation but from the disarming power of humility, obedience and love—To let go of all our defences and to trust in the power of God alone, this is unassailable faith—the true breastplate. As the Letter to the Hebrews says, "Christ offered up prayer and entreaty—aloud and in silent tears ... and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering." It was by this power that Christ won the heart of the High King of Heaven.

To put on the armour of Christ then involves a stripping of self so that we might be clothed in his compassion, gentleness and humility— "Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example ... when he suffered, he did not threaten but trusted to him who judges justly." It was to Him that Patrick bound himself in Christ. Let's ask him to pray for us today, that through the Easter mysteries we might be bound to God with equal faith.