

**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, Frank Colgan, Trudi Ziehaus Corbridge, Blanche Pollard

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Brendan Curley, Lorri Driver, Christopher Flynn, Katharine Moir, Barry Pollard, Mary Hughes.  
**Anniversaries:** Eileen Tolan, Danian Allen, Robert Hinchcliffe, Monte Turnberg, Millicent Turnberg.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“Either Christ has a Church in the world continually and until the end of the world, or else he has a church sometimes and sometimes not at all.”  
 St Thomas More.

“For I trust that in whatever manner I die, that I shall not be deprived of the mercy of my God.”  
 St Gertrude



Walking Away

I have had worse partings, but none that so  
 Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly  
 Saying that God alone could perfectly show -  
 How selfhood begins with a walking away,  
 And love is proved in the letting go.



Last Week's collection was:  
 £1013.72 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for  
 Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred  
 Heart Lamp burns for the  
 Holy Souls.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp  
 burns for peace in Jerusalem.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
 PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**THIRTY-THIRD  
 SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

Sunday 17th November	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 18th November Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 19th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 20th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 21st November Presentation of the BVM	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 22nd November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 23rd November Saturday Memorial to the BVM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

## Christ the King

This year, the International Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King will take place at the 5pm Saturday Vigil on November 23rd. Different national groups will sing and read and there will be tea and international cakes in the Hall afterwards.

## Parish Christmas Fair

If you have anything to donate for the Christmas Fair—bottles, books, bags, bric à brac, unwanted gifts etc etc—please drop them into the presbytery over the next few days. The Fair will take place on Saturday November 30. **Christmas Draw tickets are still available, should you need any—please return stubs and monies to the Presbytery.** Please keep your raffle ticket money separate from any Christmas Fair donations.

## Christmas Draw Tickets

Draw tickets are available this weekend. As usual two books of tickets – amounting to £5—have been placed in an envelope for you to take. If you could help us to sell these and return the stubs and monies to the Presbytery when you have I'd be very grateful. There are some wonderful prizes and this is a significant source of income for the parish. This year, all proceeds will go to the re-decoration of the church.

## Choir Concert

The Social Committee are aware that there are a lot of demands on your generosity at this time. We are trying to vary our events to make some more easily affordable. We have arranged for the Manchester Gospel Choir to sing in church at 7.30pm on the evening of Saturday 7th December. Tickets are only £2. We hope as many of the parish as possible will come. After the concert in Church, the Hall and Bar will be open for refreshments and the Christmas Draw will take place. Tickets are available now.

## 200 Club

The winners of the 200 Club October draw were Fiona Slack and Pat Robson. Well done to our lucky winners! All to play for in Novembers draw.

## Pastoral Letter

This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop John. Please take a copy from the back of Church.

## Mortui Vivos Docent

Mortui Vivos Docent -The Dead teach the Living. What do the dead teach us? Our beloved dead, who have gone before us, what can we learn from them? That's partly what this month of remembrance is about isn't it? - Partly what our readings today are about. So what can we learn?

Just as the bishop asked me to leave my last parish, my father went into a home. He was struggling and coming to the end. He was letting go of his house and his life, his parish and everyone he knew and, in a way, so was I. Like him, I wasn't finding it very easy: - I had been very happy in Reddish. One day, when I was visiting Dad, I met Mother Josephine, the superior of the Little Sisters' Home. She told me she was leaving too. "You know, Father, leaving is very important for us sisters: - we do it quickly, take nothing with us, and go straight to another house. We believe all the little leavings of our life prepare us for the big one at the end!" A day or so later, after she had sat at my dad's deathbed all night, I saw Mother literally skipping down their drive with just a small hold-all in her hand. It made me think of the last line of a lovely poem by Cecil Day Lewis "selfhood begins with a walking away, And love is proved in the letting go."

The first thing the dead teach us is the importance of letting go: of letting go gracefully now, so that we will be ready for the last leaving that comes with death:- Letting go of our things, our self importance, our status so that when death comes - it's not a time of distress but a peaceful surrender. The second lesson the dead teach, is the relative importance of things. They teach us what really matters. So much time and energy is wasted on nonsense: -petty squabbles and arguments, money and things when God has put us here to get ready for heaven and be happy, happy in the Lord.

So, the third and most important lesson the dead give is the importance of living the life of resurrection with them here and now: - Of having a little bit of the freedom that they have in heaven, here. Having a bit of the uncomplicated heavenly life that they enjoy, already, here and now: of being present to those we love, having some of the contentment and peace that is their's when struggle is over. Somehow in our lives, we should all be skipping down the drive like Mother Josephine. In his short story, *The Dead* James Joyce says of the characters gathered for a Christmas party: "One by one, they were all becoming shades. Better to pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than to fade and wither dimly with age." Interestingly, the one person who lives boldly like this in the story is called Michael. We're not here just do things over and over again like the priests of the old covenant - but to stand up like Michael and be like God, to search for what is glorious: - buds on the tree of life that are a promise of heaven here and now. That's what the dead teach.