

**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, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz, Kathleen Colgan.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret (Rose) Cooney, Kathleen Walsh, Tommy Ode, Keith Brown, Tom Finn, Nora Walsh.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Corkill, Eileen Ruscoe, Tony O’Hanlon, Ian Kirkpatrick, James and Alice Brown.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases.”  
St Rose of Lima

“Our wish, our object, our chief preoccupation must be to form Jesus in ourselves—to make his spirit, his affections, ours.”  
St John Eudes




**True Knowledge**

There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is Curiosity.  
There are those who seek knowledge to be known as wise by others; that is Vanity.  
There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love.

St Bernard of Clairvaux

	Last Week’s collection was: £1142.30 Thank you	<b>£££</b>	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Holy Souls.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for peace and understanding in our country.
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**OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

<b>Sunday 18th August</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 19th August</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 20th August</b> <b>St Bernard, Abbot</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 21st August</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 22nd August</b> <b>Queenship of the BVM</b>	<b>Requiem Tommy Ode 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 23rd August</b> <b>St Rose of Lima</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Saturday 24th August</b> <b>St Bartholomew, Apostle</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>

## SVP

Recently, the SVP donated five uniform grants of £50 to families at Our Lady of Grace School. At the request of the SVP National Council £50 in food vouchers were given to a homeless family who had been housed in our parish. They have now been moved to Bolton. We continue to support SVP projects in India. The SVP will help to arrange the Parish Mass for the Sick and Housebound. **All monies placed in the St Anthony's Bread box go to the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.**

## Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet on Monday 19th August at 7pm in the Cottage.

## Social Events

The Social Committee is pleased to announce some upcoming events. We've tried to arrange something each month until we gauge response.

**Friday 4th October—Bingo and Quiz Night**

**Friday 1st November—Folk Night with Rioghnach Connolly**

**Saturday 7th December—Choir Concert and Social**

**Friday 3rd January—Bingo and Quiz Night**

**Friday 7th February—Ceili**

**Saturday 1st March—Male Voice Choir for St David's Night**

**Sunday 16th March—St Patrick's Night**

## 200 Club

If you would like a number for the parish 200 Club this can be purchased at the Piety Stall. Numbers are on a first come, first served basis. You can secure a number for 12 months by paying £36 by cheque, card or in cash.

## Crib Figures

I hate to mention Christmas but thought you might like to know that the restoration of the crib figures is well on the way. It is being undertaken by a Catholic couple from Liverpool—David and Jeanette Lewis—who run a small family business. When Jeanette stripped off the paint she discovered that most of the figures had had nose jobs or lost fingers! She's sent some pictures of the progress of the work that are on the noticeboard in the porch.

## Pilgrim Statue

The Parish have been given a statue of Rosa Mystica, the Pilgrim Mother. If you would like the statue to visit your home please speak to someone on the Piety Stall.

## The Bread of Life

The little white Host that we eat—how do we know it's the Bread of Life? The short answer is because Jesus said it and his word is true. We know it's the Bread of Life because he told us so today and we trust his word.

The longer answer is: because his word always becomes flesh, has life, takes action in our world—we know we receive the Bread of Life because it makes a difference, has an effect in our lives. You know that, don't you?

I take Holy Communion to a woman who is bed fast. I get into her home using a code because she can't get up to open the door. She's elderly and has fragile health, this lady, but in nearly two years I have never seen her down-hearted. Every time I visit her she is full of smiles. Her face is bright and her eyes lively. She's interested in others, in the parish, and in what's going on. She has a great sense of humour and loves to chat.

Next to her bed is a table. Neatly arranged on it is everything she needs: her glasses, telephone, tablets, book and rosary beads. "Wisdom, has built herself a house,"—we heard in the first reading—and it made me think of this woman's house. You might be forgiven for thinking she hasn't much quality of life—but there's a quality in her that is hard to describe: essential, pure and natural—what's important.

Where does this life come from? There's no natural reason for it! There's nothing much in her surroundings, her body is failing but not her life.

Before she receives Holy Communion we pray the Our Father together. Quite quickly, I noticed she changes the words very slightly. I don't think she even notices. She says—“give us all this day our daily bread”. Give us all?! This lady's world has shrunk to a sick bed—it's been paired back to the essentials—but her life hasn't shrunk. It's grown bigger—and it grows out to all the people she knows and loves. All the people she wants God to feed, like she is fed.

Sometimes, I stand on the step when I'm leaving—wondering: How does she do it? Keep smiling, positive, happy? I can't imagine being confined like that—limited and restricted. I certainly can't imagine behaving with such grace if that were my lot.

How do we know it's the bread of life? By looking at a life like this lady's: She doesn't just feel free to change the words of the Our Father—she is free enough not to be weighed down or overburdened by life—she has another life in God and God feeds and strengthens that life with Bread that comes down from heaven.

When we experience this life in someone else—aren't we bound to ask ourselves: what difference does the Bread of Life make to me?