

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, 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, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Norah Madden, Maureen McLoughlin, Margaret Crawley, Joan Judd.

Anniversaries: Mary and Harry Carling, Gordon and Irene Heath, Stanley Holt, Clive Lamb, John Fitzpatrick, Valerie Griffin, Catherine Christian, Janet O'Malley, Mary Taylor and Hilda Wilcock.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Be at peace with your own soul and then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.”

St Rita


“Unfurl the sails and let God steer us where he will.”



St Bede, the Venerable



“The Immaculate is a Spouse of the Holy Spirit in an unspeakable way ...She has the same Son that the heavenly Father has! What an ineffable family! We belong to her, to the Immaculate. We are hers without limits, most perfectly hers: we are, as it were, her. Through our mediation, she loves the good God. With our poor heart she loves her divine Son. Through the Holy Spirit we become the mediators through whom the Immaculate loves Jesus.”

St Maximilian Kolbe

	Last Week's collection was: £1019.33. Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in the world.		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for those who have exams at this time.
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OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday 19th May	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 20th May Mary Mother of the Church	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 21st May	Requiem Norah Madden 12 noon
Wednesday 22nd May St Rita	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 23rd May Eternal High Priest	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 24th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 25th May St Bede, the Venerable	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Quarant'ore—Forty Hours Devotion

This year, the Feast of Corpus Christi falls on Sunday 2nd June. In preparation for the Feast we are going to have 40 hours devotion before the exposed Sacrament. **Please sign up on the sheets in the porch if you can spare half an hour or an hour's prayer in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.**

We will need to ensure that, day and night, the exposed Sacrament is never alone and that an atmosphere of prayer and silence is maintained in the church throughout the Exposition.

If you would like a candle to burn for your intention before the Blessed Sacrament please speak to someone on the piety stall.

Confirmation

Bishop John Arnold will visit our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Thursday 27th June at 7pm. Any young people who do not attend St Monica's need to register with me in order to be Confirmed on that day. There will be a preparatory meeting for all children in the weeks before.

Lourdes Collection

Thank you for your generosity in responding to last Sunday's collection for young people going to Lourdes. The collection raised £1105.17. Money is still coming in and I hope to give each person £300 towards their journey. If you would still like to give to this fund please hand your donation into the presbytery marked "Lourdes".

Centenary-Year Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 26th July—1st August. It will be led by Bishop John. Flyers with details are available in the porch.

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy will return to its usual slot on the last Sunday of the month from now on. The next children's liturgy will be on Sunday 26th of May during the 11am Mass.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace will be on Wednesday 5th June at 7.30pm in the Hall.

Full of Grace

Today, I'd like to kill two birds with one stone. It's the Feast of Pentecost and it's the month of May. I'd like to say something about the Holy Spirit and about Mary. Surely, here and now that's only fitting? St Augustine said that "grace" is just another name for the Holy Spirit:—the best name. Our parish is dedicated to Our Lady of Grace—to the woman who is filled with the Holy Spirit, full of grace. As the whole Church turns our attention, today, to the Spirit who is Lord and Giver of Life—at this time and in this place, we can't help but think of Mary, our Mother, Spouse of the Spirit.

One way and another, these Two, have the task of bringing us to birth as God's children; the Spirit and the Spouse. Mary, the Mother of Jesus is the Mother of God in us too:—through the Holy Spirit who overshadowed her and who allows all her children to call Jesus, Lord. So, Mary and the Spirit are uppermost in our minds and hearts today.

Perhaps we could begin with a question: If the Angel Gabriel declared Mary to be full of grace at the Annunciation, why did the Spirit need to come to her again at Pentecost? If she was full of grace then, how could she be fuller? Because St Luke does tell us that she was there when Pentecost Day came round, didn't he? The same Luke who told us in the opening of his Gospel about the Annunciation and Visitation, tells us in the first chapter of Acts, that all the apostles "joined with the women and with Mary, the Mother of Jesus," to pray for the coming of the Spirit.

Well maybe the beginning of the story will help us understand the end! The Angel greets Mary as full of grace. And then, when Mary greets her cousin, Luke tells us that "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit," too. The grace which has filled Mary to make her the Mother of Jesus, overflows into Elizabeth, to mother God in her, as well, and make her holy. What happens in this domestic scene at the beginning of the story—happens for the whole Church at the end: The one who was filled with grace to give birth to Jesus—now prays with the apostles and women: that the grace of the Spirit which fills her, will overflow and make believers not just of her blood family but by adoption, of the whole Church. From one room the entire house is filled and from that house the world.

It was for this reason that on the 3rd March 2018, Pope Francis instituted the memoria of Mary, Mother of the Church on the Monday after Pentecost "to encourage the growth of a maternal sense of the church in believers." And it's why, today, in a parish named Our Lady of Grace, we should call to mind the personal agency of God—the Spirit of Grace—that comes to us through Mary's heart and hands to adopt us as children. Today, we stand with the women and men of biblical times and of every age, who hail her full of grace and receive, as a result, the fullness of grace.