



**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

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Federico Angiolini, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Greg Calleja, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: Rita Jackson, Jonathan Straszak, Maria Gibbs, Margaret Hale and Shirley Higgins.
Anniversaries: Alan Green and Gordon Holt.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Your faith is your greatest treasure. Embrace it, celebrate it, live it openly, trust in God.”

St Andrew Dung-Lac

“Be gentle to the weak, firm to the stubborn, steadfast to the proud, humble to the lowly.”

St Columbanus



“Into Your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your love; deliver them, now, from every evil and bring them to eternal rest. The old order has passed away—welcome them in to paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain but the fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit.”



Last Week’s collection was: £1111.01 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for Federico Angiolini.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for all our loved ones who have died.

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 19th November	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 20th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 21st November Presentation of the BVM	Holy Mass 10am
Wednesday 22nd November St Cecilia	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 23rd November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 24th November Martyrs of Vietnam	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 25th November	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is on Saturday 2nd December, starting at 12.30pm. If you have any items you could spare—unwanted gifts, bottles, bric-a-brac, books, toys, tins—any things at all, please drop them off at the Presbytery where they can be stored and sorted before the big day.

Committee Meetings

Thank to the members of the Finance Committee who are able to meet this Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm. I think its best to have this as an interim meeting before the Joint Premises and Finance Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm.

Christmas Grand Draw Tickets

If you haven't collected some Christmas draw tickets, there are more available at the back of the church—they're in white envelopes. This week we've distributed draw tickets through the school so if you've ended up with two lots please return unused tickets to the Presbytery. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy

There'll be Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass on Sunday 26th November.

Parish Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will be meeting in the Cottage on Monday 20th November at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is WEDNESDAY 6th Dec at 7.30pm in the Hall.

Top to Bottom

On Thursday 23rd November a roof specialist will be in attendance with high-level access machinery. Principally, this is to investigate the roof and why it is still leaking—but also it's to do some remedial work on guttering and downspouts. Let's hope they get to the bottom of the problem. As ever, thanks for your patience.

Cafod Final Total

The final total for the Cafod Harvest Fast Collection was £953.40 we have added to this monies from the "Starving World" collection box which came to £550.00. The grand total of the cheque sent to Cafod is £1503.40.

SVP

£290 has been passed to the SVP from the St Anthony's Bread Box. Thanks

Changed by Grace to Glory

Let's consider change together today. It's something on our minds at this time of year: The alteration of the seasons brings a sort of sadness in itself; the falling leaves, the lengthening shadows of the shortening days. Moving to the end of the year, we can't but think of the move to the end of our time here - and even of the end of time itself. Today's readings encourage us to think this way and in the midst of this movement of our minds, they confront us with a profound truth of our faith: the need to accept God's grace and be changed by it into God's glory.

Two hymns are popular at this time aren't they? - *Abide With Me* and *Lead Kindly Light*. You'll remember some of the words: "change and decay in all around I see, O Thou, who changes not, abide with me." God is simple: pure unchanging love. Steadfast, without shadow of alteration. That's the bedrock of our faith. It's a comfort, amid the changes of life, to know that God does not change. But we must change mustn't we? At a most profound level, we must change into God. And for this we need the gift of his kindly light, his grace. So much in us wants to resist life's alteration. We hate change. Pride rules our will and we want our own safe patterns and to be in control. But if we do not accept to change, God cannot conquer death in us and bring us to Himself in glory. No surprise, that St John Henry Newman, who wrote that beautiful hymn, knew so much about letting go and moving on. He said: "To live is to change and to change often is to be perfect".

Ultimately, it's not death that should fill us with fear - but the man in today's Gospel who buries his one talent in the ground, refusing to accept the gift of God and the change it brings. That man should represent our deepest fear. Why? Well, think of all the images of God's grace that the Scriptures give us: the oil in the lamps of last week's bridesmaids, the seed that God sows in us, the yeast that a woman took - the flax of the perfect wife, and perhaps best of all, the money in today's Gospel. We rightly call that money "change" don't we? But all these, contain a transformative, mysterious change within them: oil to light, seed to growth, yeast to leaven, flax to warmth—and the change of money to profit. The question, then, is whether we cooperate and accept the gift of grace and the change it brings.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect of the man who buries his talent, is his refusal to accept it as his own: His own to use and shape and make profit for himself and his master. Accepting God's grace is not like putting on a coat—that doesn't change us underneath—it's more like putting on weight! It is ours from the inside and changes us from within: into God. The enormity of this work is greater than the creation of the heavens and the earth. God made them without us—but God won't recreate us into Himself without our willing acceptance of his grace and the change it brings.