

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Darren Wilson, Rebecca Garner, Lol Taylor, Pat McCormick, Theresa Welby.
Anniversaries: Mary Gallagher, John Gallagher, Ellen Gallagher, Marie Crook, Anna Hughes, Mollie Watson.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

Love Changes Everything ...

“I plead with you—never ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never be discouraged. Be not afraid.”

“The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being.”

“Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.”

“Do not forget that true love sets no conditions; it does not calculate or complain, but simply loves.”

Saint John Paul II



Last Week's collection was:
£1009.99 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart lamp
will burn for lasting
peace in our world



This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for the Jewish Community
of Prestwich

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 19TH OCTOBER 2025



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 19th October

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 20th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 21st October

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 22nd October

St John Paul II

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 23rd October

St John of Capistrano

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 24th October

St Anthony Mary Claret

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 25th October

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

OLOG Primary School

OLOG RC Primary Scholl will be holding an **Early Years Open Evening** on **Tuesday 21st October 2025**, from **4:30pm to 5:30pm**. Families are warmly invited to meet the staff, explore the EYFD classrooms, and discover what makes OLOG such a happy and nurturing school community. Visitors will have the opportunity to listen to the **school choir** perform and can also book a 1-2-1 tour of the school. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to see how faith is at the heart of school life, where children are encouraged to **work, worship, and witness** every day. If you or someone you know has a child due to start school in September 2026, please contact the school office or visit www.ourladyofgraceprimaryschool.co.uk to book a place.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

The total amount given in the Fast Day envelopes so far is £118.20. We will be collecting the Fast Day envelopes again this weekend—just put them in with the normal Offertory collection. If you didn't get an envelope, you can put a donation in the 'Starving Works' box at the back of Church, the contents of which (£183.70 so far) will go to CAFOD this month. Together, we are supporting people like Ware in Ethiopia cope with drought conditions. Many thanks

Tea & Turf

The event last Sunday was a roaring success, many thanks to all who came and supported. Huge thanks to team Slattery for organising the event and for providing such a beautiful afternoon tea. As always, thanks to the helpers on the day which meant that everything ran so smoothly. We raised over £3,000 for the redecoration fund—which is amazing! Thank you.

Car Park Restriction

The week after next—beginning Monday October 27th—a number of car parking spaces near the wall that separates us from the new multi-storey will be out of use. Vinci Construction need access to work on their site from our side. For this favour they are donating materials for the re-painting of the inside of the Cottage. These parking restrictions will only be in place during the week and should not affect us adversely. **Please do not park near the dividing wall from the afternoon of Sunday 26th October.** Walker Construction are going to paint the outside of the Cottage in recompense for using it as their site office.

A Journey to God in Prayer

Before anyone goes on a long walk or runs a marathon, they normally consider their weak-points. It pays to check that shoes or boots fit, clothing doesn't catch—that Vaseline has been applied to the feet to stop rubbing, cream to the face and shoulders to protect against the sun, and that anything that's carried doesn't cause pressure or chafe. Knees and ankles need to be supported, hands guarded from the cold and the body from the wet. Blisters and injury are the enemies of success. A spiritual pilgrimage is not the same: a prayer journey quite different. On the way of prayer, we don't avoid our vulnerabilities and guard against our weaknesses but expose and engage with them.

St Ignatius begins the journey of the *Spiritual Exercises* with the *Anima Christi*: the prayer we all know and sing as *Soul of My Saviour*. He uses the words as a pre-performance check-list of the body, soul, and spirit—and instead of avoiding vulnerability and guarding against weakness he sees those places and points as the very means of meeting Jesus and engaging with God's life. A modern translation of the words Ignatius uses at the start of his quest goes like this:

*Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your Body and Blood be my food and drink.
May your Passion and Death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side, enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your Cross.
Let me not run from the love you offer,
but hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.*

In complete vulnerability—arms stretched out on the top of a mountain—Moses stands and prays in the midst of the battle of life. The Widow, maybe the most vulnerable in society, someone who lacks protection and status, reaches out in all her need. Only the Judge—guarded from all vulnerability with neither fear of God nor respect for man—is not at rights with God, cannot connect with God's life.

Maybe it seems a strange and ghoulish thing to sing about being sheltered deep in Christ's wounds. But within human frailty and weakness our connection with God begins, our prayer life starts. There, we strip off all protection and pretence, go to the points of life that rub, the areas in which we feel weak, and we open them to God—so that all that is in Him might flow into us and give us life and strength.

And life can be a marathon can't it? So what peace it is to know that in grief and temptation, sorrow and all vulnerability we can connect with God.