

OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH



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PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Shelia McGhee, Mike Leounor, Alan Kell, Seamus Carty
Anniversaries: Begona Peinador, Pat O'Malley, Margaret Ann Fallon, Dennis Vancalsteren

WISDOM OF THE SAINTS

“Nothing is far from God. All I ask is that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be.”
St Monica

“Joy is the sure sign of a heart that sincerely loves God.”
St Philip Neri

“Conversion is nothing more than moving the gaze from below to above; a simple movement of the eyes is enough.”
St Carlo Acutis

“You ask me whether I am in good spirits? How could I not be so? As long as faith gives me strength, I will always be optimistic and joyful.”

St Pier Giorgio Frassati



	Last week's collection was £1203.89	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
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	This week the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for everyone in the parish.		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns especially for those who are sick.
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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 1st March	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 2nd March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 3rd March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 4th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 5th March	Requiem Walter Blanchfield 12 Noon
Friday 6th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 7th March	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Parish Social Update

Please note the Parish Social originally planned for **Saturday 14th March** will now take place on **Friday 13th March**.

Fairfax Road Closure

Temporary eight-week road closure for final phase of travel hub.

Bury Council have announced in advance that Fairfax Road will be temporary closed for eight consecutive weeks, including weekends, to allow the final stages of the travel hub build to be carried out.

Until now, Fairfax Road has been closed to traffic during the week and reopened at weekends. From Monday 2 March, the road is to be fully closed for eight consecutive weeks until Friday 1 May 2026.

Closure details

Start: 7am Monday 2 March 2026

End: 5pm Friday 1 May 2026

Please note: This is a full temporary closure. The road will remain closed at all times, including evenings and weekends.

Cafod Family Fast Day

This Lent, your donations to Cafod's Family Fast Day appeal will help people like Rejoice from South Sudan to overcome the effects of devastating floods, using innovative farming methods. Please give using the envelope that was included in your Lent bag. Just put your envelope in with the offertory collection, either this or next weekend. Spare envelopes are available by the church doors.

Book Club

The next meeting of our book club will be on Monday 9th March, 2pm to 3.30pm in the Cottage. We will be discussing the novel "The Glassmaker" by Tracey Chevalier, set in the 15th Century to 20th Century Venice. New members always welcome; details from Vin Allerton, 0161 773 3318, email vinallerton@gmail.com, text 07305727900

Sharing in the Cross of Christ, Sharing in His Crown of Glory

When you're driving a manual car, you must at one time or another change gears if you want to make progress on your journey. In life, therefore, one has to disengage in order to engage - detach, in order to attach. Abraham in our first reading and the apostles in the gospel reading were in a tug of war between answering God's call and leaving their comfort zone. Abraham had to leave his place and faces he knew and migrate to a land he didn't know in obedience to God's call.

Peter, on behalf of the apostles, said that it was good that they were there at the foot of the mountain with Jesus and the two prophets. He proposed to build three tents: one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. But Jesus reminded him that it wasn't good enough "when you have Me as God and the Scriptures (symbolized by Moses and Elijah) in your life while your brothers and sisters out there don't experience the joys you have and are not saved by the Gospel, you need to leave this place with me and share the gospel with others."

On a literal level, Jesus was telling the apostles as he tells us that we are pilgrims and missionary disciples. Mission isn't an abstract idea, nor is it theory or speculation - it's about real people and real life - the good, the bad and the ugly. Jesus said, "I came to call sinners, not the righteous!" (cf. Luke 5:32). Jesus invited his apostles to follow him to Jerusalem to face the passion and the cross, the mission, for which he came.

On a theological level, Jesus teaches us that, he is God with us, and our being with Him could be pleasant and delightful, but the journey is far from over - we are *in* the world, not of the world. We need to tighten our seat belts and face Jerusalem, and all that it implies - mission, passion, death, and resurrection.

It isn't easy to leave your comfort zone to go to an uncertain or unknown place. Change is difficult but change we must - every day. The earth itself is not static. It's always in motion, always changing as we ourselves always change. The earthly joys, worldly in nature, are foretastes of the eternal and should not blunt or deaden our appetite for the heavenly, the eternal; the good should *not* be an enemy of the best. The minimal standard of earthly joys should not blind us to the abundance of heavenly joy that awaits us in heaven where we shall see God as He really is and He will wipe every tear from our eyes. "There will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (cf. I John 3:2; Revelation 21:4.).

Abraham and the spotless took a leap of faith and launched into the deep as they answered God's call. They disengaged from the people and places they knew in obedience to God's call. Let us not be afraid of going with Jesus all the way. Jesus will not forsake us (cf. 2 Timothy 2:10-13). The cross is the narrow door to the crown. St. Paul tells us in his Letter to the Romans, "if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (Romans 8:17).