



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Gwen Wade, 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, Shirley Higgins, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron.

**Prayer Intentions for the Dead**

**Recently Deceased:** John McCann, Michael McFadden, Brian Potkins, Mary Mansfield and Jane Hunt.

**Anniversaries:** Gerard Caldwell, Mary Galvin, Fred Billington, Winifred Gilbert, Irene & Harry Caswell, Patrick Dawson, Joseph Robinson and Alex Robinson.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“A humble soul does not trust itself but places all its confidence in God.”


St Faustina Kowalska

“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible and suddenly you’re doing what is impossible.”

St Francis of Assisi



The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and enact the greatest drama of love; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the learning of others; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close on the shadows of this world and open on the next.

 Last Week’s collection was £895.01 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders:£1366.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Synod in Rome.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the sick and house-bound.

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 1st October	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 2nd October Guardian Angels	Holy Mass 12noon
Tuesday 3rd October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 4th October St Francis of Assisi	Holy Mass 10am
Thursday 5th October St Faustina Kowalska	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 6th October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 7th October Our Lady of the Holy Rosary	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 6-6.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 7pm

## Cafod Harvest Fast Day

Cafod Harvest Fast Day is on Friday 6th October. One of the parish Cafod representatives will give a short reflection at each of the Masses today. Please find a donation envelope with this week's newsletter—if you could return this into next week's collection, we'd be very grateful. You can also donate online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast—so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get the help that they needed.

## Mass for the Sick and Housebound

On Sunday 15th Oct the SVP will organise the annual Mass for the Sick and Housebound at the 11am and a Reception will follow in the Hall. If you are aware of anyone who would like to attend this Mass please let me know. I would like to extend this invitation to those elderly parishioners who are just managing to come to Mass. Please let me know if you would like to come to the Mass and buffet and meet up with those who can't always get here.

## Synod

Pope Francis is about to open the XVI General Assembly of Bishops in Rome—a Synod about synodality: that is, about how we walk together and listen to each other on our Christian journey as God's People, the Church. We have been invited to pray for this meeting and for the Holy Spirit's help.

In our own Diocese of Salford, Bishop John has decided to open a similar, parallel synod—so that, at a local level, we may begin a process of coming together and listening to each other. A small parish group has been involved in this process for some time and two delegates have been commissioned to take part in the Diocesan Synod. In the next few weeks, we will get to know more about how this process can be opened up in our own parish and about how we might pray for and participate in the Salford Synod.

## Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be on **Wednesday, 4th October at 7.30pm** in the Hall.

## Christmas Fair

Apologies for mentioning Christmas so soon but for the parish fair to be a success we'll need to be organised! If you could lend a hand—whether you're an old hand or a brand new one—please come along to a meeting in the Parish Hall on Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm.

## St Thérèse

I was stuck for something to say today: had no words about our readings. Yes, me, short of words! Then, I remembered, that were it not Sunday, today—October 1st—would be the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux. So, what if we read the Word through her eyes? Maybe she could give us a fresh insight and some inspiration as to what God is saying to us this Sunday?

“Always consider the other person to be better than yourself ...” You'd think that that would be difficult for this sheltered, enclosed, Little Flower, wouldn't you? She entered Carmel at 15 and died a saint by 24. Who was going to be better than her? And yet she said, in her autobiography, that she felt she'd been forgiven far more than Saint Mary Magdalene! St Thérèse saw herself as sneaking into heaven alongside the tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners that Jesus mentions in the Gospel. How come?

Well, Thérèse tells another little story about two sons to explain: “Suppose the son of a very skilful doctor,” she says, “falls over a stone lying in his path and badly breaks a limb. His father hurries to help and dresses his wound so expertly that it heals completely. Naturally, the son would be right to be grateful and love this father. But supposing again, this doctor saw the dangerous stone, anticipated that his son might fall, and moved it out of the way while no one was looking. Then the son wouldn't know of the danger that his father's loving care had saved him from—and this son would love him less than the son who was healed. But if he did find out the truth, surely this second son's love would be GREATER than the first?”

Might the two sons in St Thérèse's story help us to understand the two sons in the Gospel? Matthew's first son—who says “no” and then thinks better of it—is like someone forgiven—either from their many sins like the Magdalene or as a result of God's forethought, like Thérèse. It's the experience of mercy that makes him change. The second son—who says “yes” but does not go—does not change. He thinks himself better than the rest but hasn't come to know the ways of merciful love.

In a way, St Thérèse teaches us how to be greater sinners—in order to be better saints! She teaches us how to join the company of the tax collectors and prostitutes, who are making their way into the kingdom. We join them by realising we're no better, that before God our need for mercy is the same as theirs. To think we have no need because we've never slipped or sinned like them, is to stand outside the vineyard of God's mercy like that second son. To say “yes” but refuse to go in—is to forget all that God has saved us from beforehand—things that, mercifully, make us no better than the rest!