

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Michael Gallagher, Chris Burke, Shirley Gilligan, Margaret Cooney, Kath Walden Stevens, Christine Euston, Kathleen Colgan.

**Anniversaries:** Brian Gavigan, John Walsh, Martin Foy, Marcus Taylor, Zenon Rybicki, John Wainwright, Josephine Fenney, Thomas Rutter, Mary Rogers, Louise Fitzgerald, Margaret Slattery, Bill Greene, Renee Fitton.

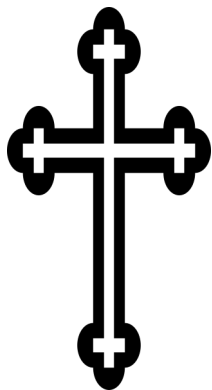
## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“You don’t climb a mountain in leaps and bounds, but by taking it slowly and step by step.”

St Gregory the Great

“If I could live in a tiny dwelling on a rock, cut off and surrounded by the sea. I would still not be free from the cares of this world.”

St Cuthbert



### September: The Triumph of the Cross

Mount Calvary is the hill of lovers. All true love begins there. Love that does not take its origin from the Saviour’s passion is foolish and perilous. Unhappy is love without the Saviour’s death. Love and death are so mingled in the Saviour’s passion, that we cannot have one in our hearts without the other. All love involves death and on Calvary we learn that we cannot have life without love or love without the Redeemer’s death.” St Francis de Sales



Last Week’s collection was:  
£1169.20 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for  
Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred  
Heart Lamp burns in  
thanksgiving.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp  
burns for all married couples.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 1ST SEPT 2024



## OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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

## 200 Club

There are a few numbers remaining for the 200 Club. If you would like a number for the monthly parish draw this can be purchased at the Piety Stall. You can secure a number for 12 months by paying £36 by cheque, card or in cash. **If you are a tax payer and would like to Gift Aid your 200 Club donation please email me or let me know. Thank you.**

## World Jubilee Youth Event 2025

A world youth event is being organised in Rome to celebrate the Jubilee in 2025. If any young people from OLOG would like to join the diocesan group would you let me know please. We could then work out a plan to help make this possible.

## Eritrean Orthodox Church

The Eritrean Orthodox Community of St John the Baptist have asked to have a celebration in our church and Bishop John has given permission for this to go ahead. We will be very pleased to welcome their community on the eve and day of Saturday September 14th—the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Anyone is very welcome to attend their liturgies which begin at 2am! There will be no morning Mass, Exposition and Confessions that day.

## Pilgrim Statue

The Parish have been given a statue of Rosa Mystica, the Pilgrim Mother. If you would like the statue to visit your home please speak to someone on the Piety Stall.

## Parish Library

I've been approached by the Sisters of Evron about renting some office space in the parish. A suitable, discrete place with ground-level access is the room off the hall that presently houses the Parish Library. Use of the library is minimal and the parish can't afford to miss out on the revenue we could gain for rental. The final decision on this possible rental will be taken by the Parish Finance Committee but if you have an opinion on the future of the Parish Library please email me and I will share this with the Committee at our next full meeting. Thank you.

## Prayer Group

There will be a meeting of the Prayer Group on Monday 2nd September at 7pm in the Cottage and everyone is welcome to attend.

## The Washing of Bronze Dishes

St Thérèse of Lisieux had a particular interest in the cleaning of bronze dishes. She observed that, in her day, people had a certain way of making these objects shine: “You smear them all over with mud, with things that make them dirty and dull and after this operation—when the mud is washed off—they will shine like gold.” She learned a spiritual lesson from this ordinary household practice: That sins against purity are like mud for the soul: they can be used by God to make us humble and our virtues shine.

The Pharisees who challenge Jesus and his disciples in today's Gospel ask why they are not following the purity laws laid down by the Torah. Why they are not following the detailed instructions that Jews believed helped them to be pure and justified in God's sight. Jesus saw a grave danger in these laws: the danger of pride. Living the Law with God's help, wasn't always making people humble but was sometimes giving them the sense of being an elite—the pure ones—who looked down on others who struggled to fulfil the letter of the Law. Jesus loathed this attitude.

St Thérèse's interest in the cleaning of bronze dishes led her to a similar conclusion: She said: “Be sure that one temptation of pride is by far more dangerous than when one commits a fault, even a grave one, against purity, *for God has consideration of the fragility of our corruptible nature*, whereas for a fault of pride there is no excuse. Pride is a fault that souls commit often and easily, without being upset! A fault of pride should be feared more than fire, whereas a temptation against purity can only humiliate our soul and by humiliation do more good than evil.”

We do not become God's elect, his chosen, the pure ones, by faultlessly following the Law—but by experiencing God's mercy in our weakness and by becoming humble in his sight. And we shouldn't think that the Pharisees are the only ones who fall for this mistake. Pride in our practice is a danger for all religious people. It was a grave danger for them and remains a grave danger for us.

This is why Jesus says in another place—“Believe me, tax collectors and prostitutes are getting into heaven before you.” Why are they? Because the limitations of their lives, their sins, have served to make them humble and their souls shine. And why, like the Pharisees, do we find this so hard to believe? Because we fall for the Devil's lie: that what makes us favoured in God's sight is our merits, our effort, our getting things right. In fact, most attractive to God is a humble, contrite heart—someone who has come to appreciate their nothingness by their frequent falls and a total reliance on God's mercy: Someone who has a dish so battered and scrubbed that it gleams in the light of the Son.