

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

John Higgins, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King,

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Sandra O'Reilly, John Conway, Pat Goody, Geoff Hunt, Paul Ryan, Seamus Keogh, James Boyle.

**Anniversaries:** Irene Caswell, Makin and Towe families, Anne O'Leary.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“What we commemorate before Easter, is the life of troubles that we experience now. What we commemorate after is the life of heaven that we already have.”  
St Augustine

“The Resurrection is the greatest miracle of Christianity and everything else depends on it. Every day we can see it happen, if we look.”  
Pope St Paul VI



**The New Life of Easter**

Why should we sing *Alleluia, Praise the Lord* today? Because this day we are fed, freed, assured of the truth, and given promises of being endowed, by our share in the Resurrection. We enjoy the gifts of clarity, agility, brightness and impassibility, which Christ showed in his Resurrection. We are made young in spirit by his new life—free to live as he does. St Vincent Ferrier

	Last Week's collection was: £1349.53 Thank you	<b>£££</b>	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
--	--	------------	--

	The Sacred Heart Chapel will be blocked off for renovation..		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for all those baptised this Easter.
---	--	---	--



**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

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Easter Sunday 20th April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Easter Monday 21st April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Easter Tuesday 22nd April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Easter Wednesday 23rd April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Easter Thursday 24th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Easter Friday 25th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Easter Saturday 26th April	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

## Building Works and Car Parking

I need to inform you of two periods during which the carpark will be **completely closed**. The first begins this evening, **Sunday 20th April until Tuesday evening 22nd April**. The second will last from **Sunday evening 27th April until Friday 2nd May**, inclusive. You will not be able to enter or leave your car on the carpark between these dates.

On Tuesday 22nd April Walker Conservation Ltd will be creating a fenced-off compound around the Cottage and taking in an area of carpark adjacent to it. We must ensure that the carpark is empty prior to this and that nothing impedes the work on the day. The Cottage will be being used as the site office until 5th September 2025. From Tuesday the pedestrian side gate from Highfield Road by the Cottage and the footpath in front of the cottage door will be closed off.

Between Monday 28th April and Friday 2nd May the contractor will need to erect scaffolding adjacent to the Sacred Heart side of the church. For this to be done safely no access to the carpark can be allowed. Please make alternative arrangements if you are visiting the church or hall at this time.

For Sunday masses and for daily Mass outside of these dates you will have access to the carpark.

### Magic Night

On Friday 9th May, the Parish Social Committee have arranged for a Magic Night to take place in the Hall at 7.30pm. Rick Taylor is a close-up magic specialist. He will go from table to table to do tricks—there will be supper and the bar will be open. Please come along with friends, take over a table—enjoy company and few drinks and prepare to be amazed. Tickets are £10 and are available from the presbytery or after the Masses next Sunday.

### Mini Market.

A big thank-you to everyone who made the Easter Market a success: those who served, made cakes, bread or jam—and those who popped into to buy something. We made £1025.00 for the Redecoration Fund.

### Happy Easter

A very Happy Easter to you and your families. Enjoy the rest! Greetings from Mark McGeehan who will be back to stay with us for a few days over Easter—I know you'll be glad to see him and will make him welcome.

## Relax—the Lord is Risen

Easter is different from Christmas, isn't it? There's a different feel to this feast. All the family pressures, the hype, the presents and the parties can make Christmas feel hard work – whereas Easter is a quieter celebration, and the light evenings of the spring make everything brighter, more relaxed. Maybe, there's something in these superficial thoughts about the deep meanings of our faith?

At Christmas we're asked to come to God, at Easter God comes to us. At Christmas God asks something of us, at Easter God does everything for us. Think of the carols and hymns we sing. At Christmas we must come: come and bring. We're asked to give: to be like the child and follow him ... At Easter, the risen Jesus comes to meet us. This is the day the Lord has made: the battle is over, He's won the victory, paid the price, and gives us the prize. The Almighty has done all things. It is accomplished – as the Acts of the Apostles says: “God raised him; God caused him to appear”.

This is the real reason why Easter is happy and relaxed. Maybe you're thinking: “Wait a minute, what about the Gospel?” – Mary Magdalene didn't seem so relaxed getting up early: Not so happy going to the grave. Peter and John weren't so calm or collected either, out running each other to the tomb. But they didn't know then, did they? That they were going to be stopped in their tracks by what they saw and realise that there was no longer anything to do. And they didn't even have to open their eyes to this new life of rest – their eyes were opened for them! Did you notice that strange phrase in the first reading “God caused him to appear”? – We tend to think of seeing as something we do, don't we? Not so for the Scriptures. God makes the risen Jesus seen by us; makes the light of his resurrection dawn on our eyes. Today, not only don't we have to lift a finger – we don't even have to open our eyes.

That's not always as easy as it seems. We all know those people who even at parties say – “What can I help you with?” “Is there *nothing* I can do?” And they look a bit deflated, disappointed, when they're told everything's sorted, in hand. Don't be disappointed today – there's one thing left to do. We're told Mary, Peter and John and all the others, saw and believed.

That's all that's left for us to do: – Believe that God loves us, believe our sins are forgiven, believe that from now on our life is hidden with Christ in God. Time to stop running, to relax and let the penny drop – If John did it and Peter and Mary Magdalene – and Thomas eventually – then there's no reason why we can't manage it too. The Lord is risen, Alleluia. Relax, believe and have a happy Easter.