

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, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Steve Rogers, Mary Foss, Vladimir Shivkov, Regina McKenna.

Anniversaries: Mark Adam Abbott, Paul Evans, Mollie Watson, Gerard Mullen, Martino Martini.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and. Does not now bear with us.”

Pope St John Paul II

“The Lord who made the beginning will take good care of the end.”

St John Capistrano



The Month of the Holy Rosary

Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: “She kept all these things. Pondering them in her heart.” The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son’s side. In a way, those memories were to be the “rosary” which she said uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life. Even now, amid the joyful sounds of the heavenly Jerusalem, she prays with us, her song of thanksgiving, unchanged. St John Paul II

 Last Week’s collection was: £1065.85 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for Della McKernan.

OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 20th October	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 21st October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 22nd October Pope St John Paul II	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 23rd October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 24th October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 25th October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 26th October Ss Chad and Cedd	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Synod

Parish meetings to explore the first two themes that emerged from the Big Listen (Nurturing Faith in Tomorrow's World and Building Connections) will take place on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 29th October at 7pm in the Cottage**
- **Thursday 31st October at 7pm in the Cottage**
- **Thursday 7th November at 2pm in the Cottage**
- **Friday 8th November at 7pm in the Parish Hall**

It would really help us plan these meetings if you could let us know which one you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome whether you took part in the Big Listen or not. Please phone Vin Allerton (0161 7733318) or Eddie Welch (0161 7980309) to book a place.

Folk Night with Rioghnach Connolly

Rioghnach Connolly—singer with Honey Feet and The Breath—will be here to perform a medley of folk music on **Friday November 1st at 7.30pm. —Entrance by Ticket only: £10 with Supper.**

RCIA

The course for those who would like to become Catholic will commence this **Wednesday 23rd October at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.** If you intend coming along please let me know.

Assisted Dying Bill

You may have heard that the Government is looking to pass a bill through Parliament that would allow terminally ill adults to end their lives with medical help. If you would like to know more about the Church's position on this issue then please take a copy of a letter written by Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark. These are available at the back of church.

House-Keeping

On Wednesday the boilers for the Church and Parish Hall were serviced and restored to use. Please **do not attempt to adjust any of the appliances** in the Church or the Hall—these have been carefully set by the engineers. Please **do not turn off lights at the back of the church**, these are to be left on for safety and security reasons—the lights assist the security cameras.

Could I also ask that you **do not dispose of any sanitary or baby-changing waste in the Hall toilets.** Please use the disposal bins provided.

An 'If' and a 'But'

When Simone Weil was a little girl, she decided to go on a hike with her brother. Her dad was loading up their rucksacks, putting the heavier things in the boy's bag and the lighter in hers. "How can I really be his sister," Simone said, "if I don't carry the same load as him?" This conviction remained with Weil all her life. You might know, that the young French woman died in England of tuberculosis towards the end of the Second World War. Her death was brought on by the fact that she refused to eat any more food than her brothers and sisters had to eat in Nazi-occupied France—she wanted to be one with them through compassionate suffering.

There's a shocking statement in our First Reading today: one that Simone might help us to understand. The first line from the Prophet Isaiah says: "The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering." Really? Could we ever think such an awful thought about God—that God would be pleased to see someone suffer? Pleased to see his Servant—you, me, Jesus, anyone, crushed? No, we could not think that of God because it is not true.

We could only think it—possibly start to understand it—because of the "if" that comes after and that Weil helps us fathom. The only reason God is pleased to see suffering—is "if the servant offers their life in atonement." If they use their suffering to take the load of their brothers and sisters. Atonement—is not a difficult thing to understand: at-one-ment—it is simply the process by which someone takes on another's burdens.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us about this process—that we have a High Priest who has shared our weaknesses and sufferings with us. A High Priest, who might say, like Simone Weil, "How can I really be their brother if I don't carry the same load as them?" He has carried our load. He has joined us on our journey through life, taken our sins and sufferings on himself, and brought our nature through to the highest heavens.

That's the 'if' - if Jesus, our brother, hadn't carried the same load as us we wouldn't have found at-one-ment with God and been able to get to heaven. That's the 'if' - what about the 'but'?

Well, the Lord says it in the Gospel doesn't he? If James and John drink the cup ... "but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to give." They are not his to give because they belong to any of God's children who are willing to suffer for another and to join Jesus on the way of compassion—anyone who will help bear the burden and carry the load of their sister or brother.

As Christians, we don't have the answer to suffering—we don't delight in it—or think God takes pleasure in it. But in suffering we do recognise a valid response:—to share the same load as Jesus for others and for God.