

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Raymond Neiles, Gabrielle Jones, Anthony Thomond, Irene Ansaldo, Michael Turner, Irene Rose Heath.

**Anniversaries:** Irene Caswell, Ivy Ogden, Evelyn Foster, June Wallace, Patrick Floyd and Joan Mahood.

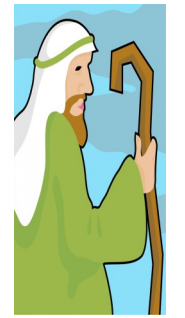
**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“Woe to me if I should prove myself but a half-hearted soldier in the service of my thorn-crowned Captain.”

St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

“A hero is not measured by their victories but by the grace with which they fight.”


*St George and the Dragon*




Some pilgrims to the Holy Land are a bit disappointed when they come to the place of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. We harbour an image of a hill far away and envisage a tomb carved into the rock. What we find is a church; with a smaller broken-down church—an Aedicule—inside. That the tomb became the foundation of the church is a wonderful thing. But more wonderful is the fact that as Von Balthasar said, God made each of us with a space, a chapel inside. It does not need to be built by us. We just need go there to glimpse his glory.

Last Week’s collection was: £1404.24. Thank you

£££ The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00

 This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for our Bishop, John.

 This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Sunday 21st April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 22nd April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 23rd April St George	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 24th April St Fidelis of Sigmaringen	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 25th April St Mark	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 26th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 27th April	Holy Mass 11am NO CONFESSIONS Vigil 5pm

## Red APF Boxes

Our parish raised £2,658.00 from Red Boxes plus another £387.00 from direct contributions for APF-Mill Hill Missions during 2023. Sincere thanks are due to all direct contributors, Red Box holders and collectors who have donated their money and time so generously.

The Salford Diocese raised £163,545.00 during 2023 and the total from all parishes in England and Wales was £2.25 million.

If you would like to help the APF-Mill Hill Missions please contact local secretary Richard Cavey on 0161 773 7648 or 07971260330.

The annual Mission Mass for APF-Mill Hill Missions will be in Salford Cathedral at 3.00pm on Saturday 15th June with refreshments served afterwards. All Red Box holders, annual member and direct contributors are welcome.

## SVP

During the Easter period, the SVP distributed 32 Easter cards and boxes of biscuits to the sick and housebound. They sent Easter cards to Central Council for distribution to 3 prisons. A donation was sent to our SVP twin in India and men's clothes were collected and delivered to Cornerstone.

## Confirmation

I've been in touch with the Bishop to arrange a date for the young people of our parish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. When I have more details they will be published here. If you do not attend St Monica's School and would like to be confirmed then please make contact with me.

## End of Financial Year

If you gave to the parish in the financial year that ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April – either using gift envelopes or by bank standing order – there is a letter for you, ready for collection from the table near the Sacristy, from this weekend onwards. Please collect your letter, and save us the cost of postage. If you think you should have a letter, but you can't find one, please let us know; ring Vin Allerton on 0161-773 3318 or text to 07305-727900.

**The Next Baptism Meeting is on Wed 1st May at 7.30pm in the Hall**

## He Leadeth Me

But where does the Good Shepherd take us?

Perhaps the first thing we can notice from the Gospel, today, is that he always takes us with him. St. John highlights the difference between the hired man and the Good Shepherd. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and they are scattered. Part of the goodness of our Shepherd is that he always keeps us with him: keeps us all in view and speaks to us so we know his voice.

He takes us with him—but where does he take us? To lie down. The famous psalm makes that much clear doesn't it? "He makes me down to lie in pastures green, the quiet waters by." He takes us to a place of peace.

Our readings today amplify for us just where this place is and what this lying down might mean. And they tell us how this peace might come. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us that this lying down is a laying down of one's life: a laying down of ourselves and all we have to the point of death. So the Good Shepherd takes us to the mouth of the grave – into the valley of darkness. But it's alright, we need fear no evil, because he is with us.

And what do we see in this place where our Good Shepherd takes us? Well we see what Peter and John—the two who speak in our readings today—saw: in the place where we expect to find death and the results of crucifixion, we find healing and new life. The Shepherd takes us to see the stone which has become the keystone; the place where marvels happen. The place where the crippled man is healed.

Where is that place—it's in the valley of death, at the mouth of the grave, where this man has been living but it's also the place where the stone was rolled away, the place where heaviness is lifted and removed and where new life begins. That's the place to which the Good Shepherd brings us a place that Peter and John ran to on that first Easter day and a place where they glimpsed new life—where they saw and believed.

It's a place of wonder, this place—somewhere where we realise, here and now, that we are already God's children and glimpse what we might be in the future, when all has been revealed and we see God face to face. Until then, it's a place of faith, near the mouth of the grave, where we hope for things to be fulfilled.

Each Sunday, this is the place to which the Good Shepherd brings each one of us: Here, a place of peace where we can lay down our lives. It's a cleft in the rock where God allows us to glimpse his glory as he has to generations before us: a place familiar to us in faith as it was to the Magdalene, Peter and John. Here he makes us to lie down, with him, until we rise to everlasting life.