



**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

**THIRD SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Sunday 21st January</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 22nd January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 23rd January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 24th January</b> St Francis de Sales	<b>Requiem Mass</b> Ted Jones 12 noon
<b>Thursday 25th January</b> The Conversion of St Paul	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 26th January</b> Ss Timothy and Titus	<b>Requiem Mass</b> Rita McLoughlin 12noon
<b>Saturday 27th January</b>	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm <b>Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm</b>

**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron, and Johnny Falloon.

**Prayer Intentions for the Dead**

**Recently Deceased:** Catherine Quinn  
**Anniversaries:** Jose Peinador, Marie Sheridan, Kate Heneghan, Jack Watson, Geoff Lake, Patricia Griffin, Celia O’Beirne

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“Do not wish to be anything but what you are and try to be that perfectly.”

St Francis de Sales

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

St Paul the Apostle, Galatians 6:9



“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them – every day begin the task anew. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile. No amount of triumphs or tribulations can change that.” St Francis de Sales



Last Week’s collection was: £1020.32. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00

If you’d like to make a donation you can do so: [caritassalford.org.uk](http://caritassalford.org.uk)



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick and housebound.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for peace in our world especially Israel and Gaza.

## Thank You

Thanks to Fr Tom and Fr Joel who have come to celebrate Mass for you while I'm away. I'm very grateful to them because it means I can have a break knowing that you are well cared for with daily Mass or in case of emergency.

## The Friendship Group

The Friendship Group meet in the Hall every other Wednesday 12.30pm—3pm. The group was founded to combat loneliness and offer an opportunity for people to meet and socialise. There's a quiz and bingo, tea and coffee and a chance to mix and chat. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday 24th January and every fortnight afterwards.

## Baptism Meeting

Please note that there will be no Baptism Meeting in the month of January. The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is **Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm** in the Hall.

## Crib Figures

Thanks to those who have shown an interest in sponsoring a figure to be restored. It should be around £80 for each figure. If you'd like to sponsor the re-painting of one of the figures please let me know. Four or five figures have already been sponsored and I hope to send the whole set away soon.

## Caritas Appeal

The Diocesan Caritas appeal is scheduled for Sunday 28th January. But you'll remember that just before Christmas Caritas YCW made an appeal for the Bury Christmas dinner and nearly £1500.00 was collected. In light of this there won't be an appeal here this year but if you would like to make a donation to Caritas Salford you can do this through the diocesan website.

## Prayer Group

The Prayer Group is due to meet in the Cottage this Monday, 22nd January, at 7.00pm.

## Merry Melodies Singing Group - Dementia Support

A support group for dementia people and their carers will take place in the Cottage every Thursday afternoon, 1.00—3.00pm from 1st February. If you would like more information on the sessions please ring John Pearcey, 07521632452

## Show and Tell

All good stories are a combination of show and tell. Some say that the events of life tell the story, the narrative, and that the characters, the people involved in the action, show the meaning of what is happening. They say that there are flat and round characters:—Flat characters appear and carry the narrative but don't seem to give much away, while round characters show by their personal traits, reactions and emotions what is happening below the surface.

The narrative of Mark's story, his Gospel, is getting underway just now. He's a good story-teller, Mark. The narrative moves fast and lots happens. The characters can seem a little flat at first—the people Jesus meets, speaks to and touches— but gradually, as the story goes on, week by week, they become rounder and they begin to show us the truth about Jesus, about themselves and about us.

There is a lovely combination of show and tell in Mark. His Gospel strongly suggests, by the way he tells the disciples' story, that he intended to awaken his listeners to their attraction to Jesus and to their failures in following him, so as to call them to repentance.

We are those listeners and now is the time. Things can seem a bit flat as the story begins—simple, ordinary working people, like ourselves, feel a mysterious attraction to follow the Lord and go after him. But we know from the story of our lives and theirs, that things are more complicated. As we engage with Mark's Gospel over the coming weeks, we are shown something of the impatience and anger of James and John—they become rounder before our eyes. We get to know the fickleness of Peter—that his goodwill and enthusiasm don't last. We see the story of Jesus' goodness constantly unfolding and at the same time the failure of other character to engage and act. We see our own story unravel.

What a blessing to be able to begin the story again—to go back to the beginning and engage with all that happens. Because this story is not past—it is a living word and these flat characters become round with the truth of our lives, year after year. The time has come—again—for us to repent and believe the good news: To believe that we're not caught for ever in an unchanging character but that this time round the story can have a different ending!

We're not doomed for ever to feel an attraction to follow Jesus and to fail. Peter, James, John—elders, scribes, poor widows, sick daughters, wayward sons, faithful women and a whole host of characters, await to make us more rounded and help us choose what is right and true.

Up! Sisters and brothers our time is growing short—let's repent and believe