

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, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Anthony Francis Higgins, Seamus O’Hanlon, Patsy McDade, Francesca Glorioso and Judith Vaughan.

Anniversaries: Bernice Caldwell, Violet Green, Lourenco Pacheco, Dimple J.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Let everyone who has the grace of intelligence fear that, because of it, he or she will be judged more heavily if they are negligent.”

St Bridget of Sweden

“The things that go on within you are more important than events that take place outside.”

St Charbel Makhlouf



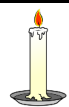
“O Thou, our reminder of the Crucified,
Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me, then; feed and feast my mind,
There be thou the sweetness we were meant to find.
Like what tender tales tell of the Pelican,
Bathe me, Jesus Lord, in what thy bosom ran--
Blood that but one drop of has the pow'r to win,
All the world forgiveness of its world of sin.
Jesus whom I look at shrouded here below,
I beseech thee, send me what I thirst for so ...”



Last Week’s collection was:
£1014.19 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred
Heart Lamp burns for the
sick of our parish.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp
burns for those on the Diocesan
Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—21ST JULY 2024



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 21st July	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 23rd July St Bridget of Sweden	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 24th July	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 25th July St James, Apostle	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 26th July Ss Joachim and Anne	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 27th July	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 22nd July at 7pm in the Cottage. Anyone is most welcome to attend.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes leaves this week, including the five young people from our parish. If you have any prayer petitions to make please place them in the box today and they will be taken to the shrine. A kind donation means we have €100 to give to each person going. Let's pray that they have a wonderful experience. I'm sure they'll pray for us.

Sssh!

We're not doing very well with **silence** in our church. I've had quite a few complaints from people who are trying to pray after the weekday and the Sunday Mass, that the noise is distracting and unfair. Please don't remain behind in church to talk. We're blessed with other spaces in which to gather and chat after Mass: The hall is open each week for coffee and tea after the 9am and 11am and there's the porch and covered entrance each day.

We must consider, too, what little huddles look like to new parishioners and guests—it doesn't help with our welcome and their feeling at home. Could I ask that we make an effort with this in coming weeks please? Thank you.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for all those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace will be in the Hall on Wednesday 4th Sept 2024 at 7.30pm. **There will be no meeting in the month of August.**

Parish 200 Club

I'm pleased to report that there seems to be enough interest for us to launch a Parish 200 Club at Our Lady of Grace. Over the next few weeks I'll look in to sorting out how this will work and hope to begin in the month of September. Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest.

School Holidays

Term finished at Our Lady of Grace and St Monica's this week. We wish all the best to those who are moving on and pray that families will have a safe and happy time over the summer break.

Social Events

The Social Committee hope to publish a calendar of events very soon.

The Question of the Good

Does the Gospel ever leave you with some questions? When you hear what happens, what Jesus said and did, do you ever wonder why? This week's Gospel left me wondering: What was it that brought all those people, from every town and from all over the place, to come on foot, to the secluded spot that Jesus and his apostles had found? Why did they follow him? Who are these people? In other passages it tells us that they were crowding around him, to such an extent, they were stepping on one another. Why?

I guess Jeremiah gives part of the answer: Jesus was a prophet, a wonderful speaker and guide—a man of integrity, honest and true. So the people hung on his every word. It was his goodness and kindness that made them follow him. After all, though the Gospel does not use that word today, he is the Good Shepherd.

When the Gospel does use that word—Good—it says more than we might first expect. And in that very word, lies more of our answer—more of the reason why so many were waiting for him when he came ashore.

In Greek, the language of the Gospel, there is more than one word for good. There are two or three. There's the word *agathos*—which means good in the sense of virtuous, morally upright, honest and true. But Jesus doesn't choose that word. He chooses *kalos* to describe himself; for the goodness that is his. And *kalos* means good in the sense of attractive, beautiful. You hear the meaning in the word calligraphy—meaning beautiful writing.

So, what draws these people from all over and from everywhere, isn't just a moral message, an upright person, a wiseman. No, they come in such large numbers, they come over such difficult terrain, they come in all their need — because Jesus is wonderfully attractive, simply beautiful.

My next question was—and what does Jesus see as he steps ashore? We know the answer. He sees us: The poor, the blind, the crippled, the broken-hearted and bereaved. He sees the sick and the desperate, the bored and the ignorant: criminals, cheaters, liars, prostitutes and sinners. He sees us all. Our beautifully Good Shepherd stands before all our ugliness and sin and—you know what?—he's attracted! To all that we turn from, he is drawn.

The force of this attraction, this beauty is what St Paul is talking about too: In Christ, our Good Shepherd we, who used to be so far apart from God, have been brought very close. He has broken down the barrier. There is no longer opposition between the person trapped in ugliness and sin and the beautiful person of grace—through the blood of Jesus, in God's sight they are now one, single, new Person, in Christ. Or as the hymn more eloquently puts it: *love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.*

And I suppose that leaves us with one final question: How lovely are we?