

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes,

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Joan Booth, Lando Flores, Rebecca Garner, Jerry McSweeney.

**Anniversaries:** Harry Caswell, Joe Robinson, Alex Robinson, Fred Billington Winifred Gilbert.

## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Pray, hope, and don’t worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.

St Padre Pio.

“O Physicians of souls, Saints Cosmas and Damian, stand before the Lord of All and ask Him to heal me and all those dear to me of any spiritual ills we may endure. Drive away from us all sin and sadness of mind, all darkness and despair.”

St Andrew Kim Taegon, Martyr

If then, He is our Father, not by nature, but by adoption—that is by grace—we are nonetheless His heirs and have some sort of right over His possessions and riches. A father cannot, without leave of his adopted children, alienate any of the family heirlooms; the adopted don’t acquire full dominion but have become part owners of their Father’s possessions, since they are legal heirs.



Last Week’s collection was:  
£1046.85 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for  
Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart lamp  
will burn in thanksgiving.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp  
burns for all those in our parish  
who are sick

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 21ST SEPTEMBER



## OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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## TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Sunday 21st September**

**Holy Masses 9am & 11am**

**Monday 22nd September**

**Eucharistic Service 12 Noon**

**Tuesday 23rd September**

St Pius of Pietrelcina

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Wednesday 24th September**

Our Lady of Walsingham

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Thursday 25th September**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Friday 26th September**

Ss Cosmas and Damian

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Saturday 27th September**

St Vincent de Paul

**Sunday Vigil Mass 5pm**

## October Tea & Turf

Ticket sales for the Tea & Turf social event on Sunday 12th October have been a roaring success. At the time of going to print there are only 9 tickets left. Admission is strictly by ticket only, unfortunately there will not be the opportunity to 'pay at the door'.

## Knitting and Friendship clubs

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of some company or would like an afternoon of friendship and fun, then the knitting club and friendship clubs are always looking to welcome new members. They meet in the Hall on alternate Wednesdays from 12:45pm-3pm. For further information please speak to a member of either club.

## Baptism Meetings

For those who wish to have their child / children baptised here at Our Lady of Grace, we are going to slightly change the format of arranging Baptisms. Currently there is a meeting on the first Wednesday of the month where the necessary forms are completed and dates are agreed.

As of October this will change. The meetings will now be held in-between the 9am Mass and the 11am Mass on the **first Sunday of the month**. So, between 10am and 10:30am approximately, in the Parish Hall. The first meeting will be on **Sunday 5th October**.

## Premises Update

As you can see, redecoration of the sanctuary is almost complete and the present works are finally coming to an end. Over the next few days some tidying and cleaning will take place. I've been promised that also in the next few days the side door will be hung and the ramp remodelled. The restored statue of the Sacred Heart will be returned at the beginning of October and be reinstalled—along with a new statue near the side door. Two other jobs remain on the horizon: Thanks to a generous and anonymous donation the sanctuary floor will be recarpeted and restored. And during November emergency lighting, which should enhance our present poor lighting, will be installed. We should be near enough straight by Christmas! Thanks for your patience and thanks for your generosity.

## Prayer Group

The next meeting is on Monday 22nd September, in the Hall.

## A Dear Ransom

There is an unfathomable saying in the second letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthians. It goes like this: "God made the sinless one into sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." God became the unrighteous one so that we might be righteous in God's sight. Staggering as it is, maybe that saying allows us to understand a bit better today's difficult Gospel. Perhaps it allows us to grasp the identity of the steward of the unrighteous - and to dare to say that Jesus is this dishonest manager.

You see, our Gospel today is part of a longer passage. It should actually begin, "And Jesus also said to his disciples ..." So if this is what he "also said" what had he said just before? Well, the story of the lost sheep and the parable of the prodigal son in fact. And the reason Jesus said what he did was because the Pharisees were criticising our Saviour for associating closely with prostitutes and sinners. After speaking about a lost sheep he told a story of a son who goes to a far country and when he and his women had squandered the inheritance, then that son returns to the father's house in penance and is restored to his rightful place. Was the far country our world, and after emptying himself here of all his inheritance did Jesus not return to the Father's house in heaven? Does the father in that story not have shades of our merciful Heavenly Father and is Jesus not his Prodigal Son?

And if Jesus had already said all this does that story not shed light on the parable we have listened to today - the one that speaks of a mysteriously praiseworthy unjust steward; the one we find it so difficult to understand? Might not Jesus himself be the unjust steward, the steward of the unrighteous as our Gospel calls him?

Jesus emptied himself of his equality with God, he ceased to be manager of all that's made and by his death—his losing office - he cancelled out the debts of his brothers and sisters: here take your bond and write thirty!

The ransom paid to make us righteous—the ransom of Jesus—is a mystery that the biblical writers struggle to describe. It's a mystery we will never fully understand. What was the ransom and to whom was it paid—and why did it have to be paid? St Paul also gives us this testimony today: "There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all."

From this we know our ransom—Jesus, God himself! A ransom not paid to the Devil—but given within the life of God to the Father, in our nature and on our behalf. Not a just or legal demand but a free act of love between Father and Son—something so incredible as to seem madness to the calculating human minds. As crazy as the acts of an unjust steward.