

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, 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, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad, Kevin McCormick, Ellen Sumaya.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Pete McCormack and Lilian Teresa Smith.

Anniversaries: Albert Gilbert and Allan Green.

CHRIST THE KING

Reflect on the crucifixion scene Luke paints: we've got soldiers, rulers, criminals, one of whom seems to experience a conversion. Though they're not named, we've got onlookers, people who respected Jesus and people who hated him. In other words, Luke is suggesting that at the foot of the cross are people from all different walks of life. The cross is big enough to embrace all of them. Through the cross, says Colossians, the tensions and hostilities that surround the cross are embraced.

The cross has made us fit for the kingdom. Like the thieves we can either embrace what's offered or reject it. And that means that we have the opportunity, through the power of Christ's cross, to hold together the tensions of the world. There are plenty of them to be found. Maybe we aren't surrounded by rulers and soldiers and criminals; maybe it's frustrating neighbours and family members, people with different political views or who come from different backgrounds. But no matter what hostilities or differences are swirling around us, we, by the power of the cross of Christ, can stand in the gap and make peace between parties.



Last Week's collection was:
£1108.50 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart Lamp
will burn for the Holy
Souls.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for someone awaiting
diagnosis.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 23RD NOVEMBER



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL KING

Sunday 23rd November

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 24th November

Ss Andrew Dung Lac & Companions

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 25th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 26th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 27th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 28th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 29th November

Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Advent Pack

Please take home with you an Advent pack. It's a little something to help you through the Season and to prepare for Christmas. It's free but intended just for OLOG parishioners—a thank-you for your generosity (Though amongst other things, there's another book of raffle tickets inside!!).

Christmas Fair

This Saturday, 29th November at 12 noon, the Parish will hold its Christmas Fair. If you can make it, please do come along. There's something for everyone: Santa for the children, Irish coffee and cake for the adults. There's the usual stalls and more ... bric a brac, books, a bottle stall, burgers and bargains. There'll be home-baked cakes, homemade Christmas decorations and, yes, homemade marmalade and jams. Not to mention a chocolate tombola and many other things. Let's hope for good weather and a good turn-out. If you have anything to donate to the Fair it will be gratefully received at the House.

Parish Christmas Raffle & Fair

Please do your best to sell as many Christmas Raffle tickets as you can. There are plenty available in the white envelopes near the doors. Return the stubs and monies, in the envelope, to the Presbytery. If you need more tickets you can collect them from the House or pick up one of the white envelopes at the back of church. Thanks for your support.

Christmas Concert

On Friday 5th December Besses O'Th' Barn Brass Band will perform a short seasonal concert in church from 7pm. Tickets are £5 and are available after the Masses or from the Presbytery. After the concert there will be a Social in the Hall, refreshments will be available and the Grand Draw for the Christmas Raffle will take place—as well as the 200 Club draws for November, December and the £400 Christmas Bonus. Big Money!

Safeguarding

Salford Diocese is currently undertaking a safeguarding audit of parishes. In our own parish we have many volunteers in roles that require a DBS check. This is up to date and we will soon be undertaking DBS checks for new SVP members. We will then have to register with the Diocese other volunteers who do not require a DBS check. Once again, the Safeguarding team are grateful for your cooperation and support.

Before the Sun Goes Down

Today is a happy day – we're celebrating the reign of Jesus Christ as our Universal King: the One Who governs everything in heaven and on earth and Who holds all things in His hands. Strange, then, that the Gospel should confront us with the dereliction of the Cross! We might have expected different words about the Kingdom today: Perhaps one of the many beautiful parables about the joy of discovering the Kingdom or about its steady, unrelenting growth in the world: The woman who finds the coin or mixes in the yeast until it's leavened all through. We could have been given a description of the coming of the Kingdom among us reflected in Christ's power to reconcile, in His reign over the natural world, or in the strength of His healing touch. Instead, we have three, powerless, dying men abandoned and helpless. What does this say to us about the joy of God's reign, about the powers of Christ our King?

Maybe we get to know more about a king and his reign from the subjects of his kingdom. Today, one such subject is presented for our consideration. What, then, do we know about the Good Thief? Everything and nothing! We know nothing much about him as an individual – about his story or his personality: but in a way we know everything – all that matters.

From today's Gospel we know that he had heard the central message of Jesus – he knew about the Kingdom and recognised Jesus as King. We also know he was penitent – he asked for mercy. And we know he had faith, he believed and professed the truth. We also know that he rejected negative voices, was positive and hopeful to the last. What else do we need to know about him, or anyone? This is everything God wants to know of him, of us, and of everyone.

Yet, where there's a gap - we like to fill it! And though not necessary God likes to know our story too! So, from earliest times the community gave this criminal a name. They christened him Dismas – a name which means death or sunset, the last things. It's good for us to name him so on this last Sunday before Advent and to remember, before the sun goes down on another year, what is necessary and essential to God's Kingdom, to a joyful life with God.

Whatever might be our story, whatever might have happened or be missing – God will provide for these gaps in his great mercy – As long as we are attentive to His Word, sorry for our sins, and persevere in hope. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ our Universal King is not of this world – it's not tied to institutions or buildings, places or seasons: It's far, far bigger and far, far better. His Kingdom is always at hand— it's in us and amongst us now. And if we would do what Dismas did before it's too late—then today and every day would be happy: We'd be in Paradise in our hearts.