

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

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, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Blanche Pollard.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Hazel Ashhurst, Barry Pollard, Katherine Moir Robert Hinchcliffe.

Anniversaries: Gordon Heath, May Duffy, Eileen Tolan, Eva O’Riordan,

CHRIST THE KING



A Sonnet for the King of Kings

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
 Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
 Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
 Our soundtracks drown his murmur: ‘I am thirsty’.
 He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
 And seek a welcome from the world he made,
 We see him only as a threat, a danger,
 He asks for clothes, we strip-search him instead.
 And if he should fall sick then we take care
 That he does not infect our private health,
 We lock him in the prisons of our fear
 Lest he unlock the prison of our wealth.
 But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
 The praises of our hidden Lord and King.

	Last Week’s collection was: £1135.40 Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Holy Souls.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for peace in the world.
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**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**SOLEMNITY OF
CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING**

Sunday 24th November	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 25th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 26th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 27th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 28th November	NO MASS
Friday 29nd November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 30th November St Andrew, Apostle	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Parish Christmas Fair

Please come along to support our **Christmas Fair from Noon on Saturday 30th November**. It's a great way to meet others and support our parish.

Thanks for all your generosity in dropping items in for the fair. If you still have anything to donate for the Christmas Fair—bottles, books, bags, bric à brac, unwanted gifts etc etc—you can still bring them to the presbytery over the next few days. Thanks to all the volunteers, helpers and donors who make the whole fair possible and such a success.

Cottage Christmas Café and Produce

Mark and I have been busy in our spare time! We decided to make some lovely homemade Christmas goods: marmalade, lemon curd, chutney, Christmas mince, cranberry sauce and even fruit in brandy! A little cottage industry to support the parish. All our wares will be for sale in the Cottage Café—so please come to the fair and come and see us in the Cottage Café.

Christmas Brochures

We've had some Christmas brochures produced to invite people to Our Lady of Grace over Advent and Christmas—to see the Church, the Crib and come to the Fair and our Concert—and, who knows—even to join us here. But we need a favour—and are dependent on you for it. If you would take a few brochures and post them through your neighbours' doors we'd be very grateful. Of course we have to be careful not to double deliver. At the back of the Church, on the porch noticeboard, is a list of the streets of the parish. If you are going to post some brochures—please check that the street has not already been ticked—if it's free please tick and deliver. Maybe this can be our commitment for this Year's Feast of Christ the King to open up our welcome and bring others in?

Thursday Funeral

On Thursday, I'll be preaching at Fr Brendan Curley's funeral which is at 12 noon in Withington. Unfortunately, there will be no Mass here that day because the possible supply priests are also all attending the funeral. I'm sure you understand. Because of the Funeral reception Vigil there will be no RCIA class on Wednesday 27th November—we'll resume on Dec 4th.

Prayer Group

The Prayer group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 25th November 7pm.

On His Robe And On His Thigh

There is a beautiful antiphon sung for Christ the King—the text is from the Book of the Apocalypse: “On His robe and on His thigh there was a name written, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings.” Why on his thigh? Well, that's the place to seal a testament, a perpetual promise.

I wonder have you seen *Gladiator II* yet? Maybe you've seen the first, and I think superior, *Gladiator* with Joaquin Phoenix and Russell Crowe? In both films there is a scene in which the gladiators are branded with a seal—to show they're a member of the Roman Legion or the slave of a particular master. The Latin word for this seal is one that has become familiar to us Christians: *sacramentum*—our word for the sacraments; signs by which God confirms His promise in Christ, and seals us as His own.

There was another reason why Christians took up this word to explain the truth about God's relationship to His people. *Sacramentum* also had a legal meaning. If ever there were disagreements about inheritance, two parties would enter into a promise until things were settled. The sign of the promise would be the splitting of a precious coin. Each party would take half—and when the rightful heir had been established, the coin would be joined and the heir take the whole. The word for the part-piece was also *sacramentum*—sacrament.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, each one of us joined a people in service of a common Master. Each was sealed with the promise of an heir's inheritance: The bounty of the Lord of Lord's and the King of Kings: eternal life.

But we sometimes forget that what we have, in promise now, is only a part—a sign of a much greater and complete inheritance from a universal King. In Christ, God has made the same promise to every tribe and people and nation on earth—to each and every person and each has their part: To contribute to a complete and universal whole. Surely, this is why Jesus resists any association between His kingdom and an earthly empire. That would be to limit things terribly—to limit the inheritance he wishes to lavish equally on all.

So, the sacramental promise we received at Baptism—the promise by which we each are already priest, prophet and king—brings great responsibility. Until the fulfilment, the final settling, we must remember that we each only have a part—and no part is greater or better than another: The Kingdom belongs to God and His Christ—it is God's gift to each and all in Christ and it is our solemn duty, until the fulfilment, to take our part and make each and all as welcome as we are. It's for this we were sealed.