

## 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, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Kathleen Walsh, Chris Burke, Angela McMenemy, Nonie Brehony, Kathleen Colgan, Derek Pierson, Patrick Jones.

**Anniversaries:** William Greene, Jack Watson, Harry Caswell.

## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“God doesn’t always grant us what we ask—but only ever so as to bestow something better.”

St Augustine of Hippo

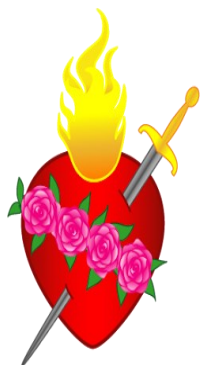
“Jesus Christ said over the elements ‘This is my body.’ You say it is not. Who then am I to believe? I prefer to believe Jesus.”

Bl Dominic Barberi

### Immaculate Heart

This is why the Blessed Virgin is called powerful—nay sometimes all powerful, because she has more than anyone else: No one has access to the Almighty as his Mother has. While she defends us neither height or depth, human beings or evil spirits, neither monarchs nor crafty people or any violence can harm us. For human life is short but Mary reigns above, Queen for ever.

St John Henry Newman



 Last Week’s collection was: £1031.89 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns in thanksgiving.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for all married couples.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—25TH AUGUST 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

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**Sunday 25th August**

**Holy Masses 9am & 11am**

**Monday 26th August**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Blessed Dominic Barberi**

**Tuesday 27th August**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**St Monica**

**Wednesday 28th August**

**Requiem Kathleen Walsh  
12 noon**

**St Augustine**

**Thursday 29th August**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Beheading of John the Baptist**

**Friday 30th August**

**Holy Mass 12 noon**

**Saturday 31st August**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm  
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm**

## 200 Club

There are a few numbers remaining for the 200 Club. If you would like a number for the monthly parish draw this can be purchased at the Piety Stall. Numbers are on a first come, first served basis. You can secure a number for 12 months by paying £36 by cheque, card or in cash. I'm sorry there are difficulties with the card machine but hopefully this will be rectified soon.

## Parish Library

I've been approached by the Sisters of Evron about renting some office space in the parish. A suitable, discrete place with ground-level access is the room off the hall that presently houses the Parish Library. Use of the library is minimal and the parish can't afford to miss out on the revenue we could gain for rental. The final decision on this possible rental will be taken by the Parish Finance Committee but if you have an opinion on the future of the Parish Library please email me and I will share this with the Committee at our next full meeting. Thank you.

## Social Events

The Social Committee is pleased to announce some upcoming events. We've tried to arrange something each month until we gauge response.

**Friday 4th October—Bingo and Quiz Night**

**Friday 1st November—Folk Night with Ríoghnach Connolly**

**Saturday 7th December—Choir Concert and Social**

**Friday 3rd January—Bingo and Quiz Night**

**Friday 7th February—Ceili**

**Saturday 1st March—Male Voice Choir for St David's Night**

**Sunday 16th March—St Patrick's Night**

## Crib Figures

I hate to mention Christmas but thought you might like to know that the restoration of the crib figures is well on the way. It is being undertaken by a Catholic couple from Liverpool—David and Jeanette Lewis—who run a small family business. When Jeanette stripped off the paint she discovered that most of the figures had had nose jobs or lost fingers! She's sent some pictures of the progress of the work that are on the noticeboard in the porch.

## Pilgrim Statue

The Parish have been given a statue of Rosa Mystica, the Pilgrim Mother. If you would like the statue to visit your home please speak to someone on the Piety Stall.

## Ad Cenam Nuptiarum Agni

Last Monday, on my day off, I went to Blackpool. I did have a quick walk on the prom but my purpose in being there, wasn't the pleasure beach: it was a busman's holiday. I went with a friend of mine to visit her sister because she and her husband were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. I went to take them Holy Communion and to give them a blessing. It was a lovely experience but not quite what I expected!

Geraldine's husband, Joe, the groom of fifty years ago, wasn't there. He'd been taken into hospital for serious tests a couple of days before. But Geraldine was there, joyful, and propped up on a chair in what looked like the most uncomfortable position possible. She has a degenerative disease something similar to muscular dystrophy. Her two children were there, too, and together we made a little congregation. "It doesn't matter Joe's in hospital, does it?" Geraldine said. "For the blessing and Communion—I mean, we're one flesh, aren't we? We even finish each other's sentences these days." She was so happy when she rang him later and they both had a little cry on the phone—tears of joy for all their blessings of fifty years.

When the priest shows the Host to the people at the Lamb of God, he says, "blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb" - In fact, here, the liturgy quotes the Book of Revelation: "Blessed are those called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And today's readings draw together considerations about Marriage and the Eucharist: something lovely to think about, something that Geraldine and Joe reminded me of: the similarities between the communion of marriage and our communion in the Eucharist.

The Church has always taught that there are three goods of marriage: *fides, proles et sacramentum*: faithful companionship, new life and off-spring, and the means of salvation. In their intimate communion together, couples share their life, bring about new life, and are the means of each other getting to heaven. And the gift of God's very self in the Eucharist comes to us in this nuptial way too: in Holy Communion, God shares every aspect of divine life with us, God brings about new life, and God becomes the means of our getting to heaven: three goods that are all good for us.

But the intimate way in which Jesus speaks of his conjugal sharing with us is too much for some and they find it intolerable: That, in Jesus, God gives his very flesh, creates new life, and becomes the means to heaven. That he does this as intimately as the sharing between a man and a woman in marriage—is too close, too graphic, too much altogether.

And yet it is what it is— and it takes the married apostles a while to appreciate this—But eventually any Peter, Geraldine or Joe is also able to say of the Eucharist: "Lord, to Who else shall we go?"