

## 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, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Aninstead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad, Kevin McCormick, Ellen Sumaya and Sean Galvin.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

**Recently Deceased:** Mary Walker, Patrick Devlin, Sadie Bell, Paddy O'Grady, Sheila O'Regan, Chris Tracey, Jim Collins, Jack Reilly, Eileen Grimshaw, John Hassan.

**Anniversaries:** Patricia Griffin, May Rice, Jose Pienador, Craig Millward, Victoria McManus, John Cottam, Celia O'Beirne, Mildred Stansfield, Kathleen Hurst, William Greene.

## WISDOM OF THE SAINTS

The word of God is a loving, saving word. It is a word that takes flesh! What does the love of this word look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see the misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of women and men. That is what the love of God's word looks like! Read it and see!

St Augustine of Hippo

### Prayer Group

**Meet in the Cottage on Monday 26th of January at 7pm**



Last week's collection was £918.96

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



This week the Sacred Heart Lamp burn for those who are sick



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for all those working on the Vinci site next door.

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 25TH JANUARY 2026



## OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

<b>Sunday 25th January</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp;11am</b>
<b>Monday 26th January</b> St Timothy and Titus	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 27th January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 28th January</b> St Thomas Aquinas	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 29th January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 30th January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Saturday 31st January</b> St John Bosco	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm</b>

## SVP

The next meeting of the members of the SVP will be after the 9am Mass on Sunday February 1st in the Parish Hall.

## Quiz and Bingo

Quiz and Bingo Night on Friday January 30th at 7.30pm. Tickets £2—if you don't have one yet you can pay at the door on the night.

## The Future

Since I announced that I'm moving on from Our Lady of Grace, I've been touched by the sad reaction of so many people and I'm really very grateful for your support and understanding. Now that all those affected by the change have been notified, I'm glad that I can provide you with more background and maybe better answer some of your questions: Where are you going? What will you be doing? Why are you going? Is this your choice? Is it right for our parish and for you?

I'm going to London to work at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea where priests are trained for various dioceses in England and Wales, including our own diocese of Salford. I will be joining the community there as spiritual director. The role involves partnering with those who want to be priests to help them discern God's call, deepen their prayer life, and grow in their relationship with Jesus: listening and giving encouragement as students navigate their personal struggles and the challenges of their journey.

Eleven years ago I took up parish work in our diocese and didn't expect to return to seminary formation. These years have been full: rich, interesting, and enjoyable. During them I've met wonderfully faithful people and experienced parish ministry from the inside: its blessings and challenges. I'm happy to be part of this rich harvest - something that is slowly and surely happening here. But that there are so few labourers, that young and active parishioners and priests are so scarce, fills me with concern for the future. I know that the reasons for our difficulties are many and complex but when presented with an opportunity to help encourage more young priests I felt torn. What would be the better thing to do? Though our Bishop is under pressure to meet so many needs, I'm grateful that in this he left me free to choose. For better or worse, I've made the decision. Thank God that I can: that just then, the Bishop had another priest to send to further develop your parish and try to meet your needs. That is not the reality for most people and places - and it's that which is behind my decision to try my best at something different in a new place.

## Sunday's Word

Do you ever get that Sunday afternoon feeling: The dull realisation that the weekend is waning and another, busy, week with all its demands, rapidly approaching? Perhaps it gets easier as you get older? I think it was at its height for me at the age of seven. Then, Sunday afternoons were not only clouded by the prospect of school in the morning but by the thirty-minute interrogation my dad gave us on the times-table before bed. Learning the lists and patterns was bad enough but the quick-fire questions at the end were torture. Seven eights, twelve nines, eight fours.

Later, especially when I had a job in a shop, I realised that times-tables were useful - essential patterns that make things work and life easier. Whenever I'm adding up or sorting out these days, I'm grateful for the basic pattern my dad instilled:- a tool for life!

I'm grateful to my heavenly Father too for the useful tool of his Word that saves me from so much - that provides a useful pattern of meaning that makes things happen and life easier and smooth.

Today, we celebrate Sunday as a gift of the Word of God - the day on which our Heavenly Father gives us a Word that brings shape and meaning, ease and spirit to our daily lives: a Word of life. Our readings remember a time when the pattern of that word was held in contempt: A time when the twelve tribes that had received the Law had been reduced to two and the saving pattern of God's word had been ignored and lost. To the territory of the two smallest and weakest tribes Jesus arrives! To revive the pattern, call the people to repentance, and spread the good news.

The time of repentance, when the people relearn the useful pattern of God's saving word in their lives is a bit like that Sunday evening. A time which seems difficult but in fact is introducing a way of living and behaving that is useful and brings order and peace to life.

It's this same pattern that Paul is trying to introduce to the divided and quarrelling people of Corinth. He calls them back to basic principles on which they can agree—the word that Jesus has given that brings meaning, light and peace.

At the start of this new year, we shouldn't hear that word "Repent!" as a depressing word of doom but as an invitation to remember and return to a pattern we already know—a reliable pattern that gives shape and order—confronts difficulties and offers life: a basic pattern on which we all can agree and from which we can learn to live together with ease and delight. For the Lord is our light and our help so whom shall we fear? He is the stronghold of our life and we have nothing to dread.