

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Julie Walmsley, Lammie Robertson, Sheila Graham, Christina Cousins, Gary Caulfield, Theresa Caveney.

Anniversaries: Carmel Morosey, Judathan Allen, Peter Cople, Mary Byrne, Ross Barton, Leo Dolan, Nora Gray, Martin Brett, Mary Evans, John Brady, Max Facchin, Percy Taylor, Herbert Scholes, Mary Gilles.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

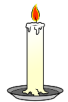
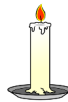
“In youth, the days are short and the years are long. In old age, the years are short and the days long.”
Pope St Paul VI

“Do you know that the largest trees, that have years of growth are cut down in an hour? It is foolish to look for their fruits but be unready for the fall.”
St Thomas of Canterbury



“I think that while we are in this ‘valley of tears,’ cursed with labour, hemmed round with necessities, tripped up with frustrations, doomed to perpetual plannings, puzzlings, and anxieties, certain qualities that must belong to heaven and God’s life have no chance to get through, except through play . For surely, we must suppose the life of the blessed to be an end in itself, indeed the End... How can you find any image of this in the ‘serious’ activities of our world? It is only in our ‘hours-off,’ only in our moments of permitted play, that we find an analogy for God’s life. Play and games are frivolous, unimportant down here; for ‘down here’ is not their natural place. Here, they are a moment’s rest from life. In heaven play is all there is.” C.S. Lewis

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|  | Last Week’s collection was: £1274.26. Thank you | £££ | The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00 |
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|  | This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in the world. |  | This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for those who have exams at this time. |
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OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TRINITY SUNDAY

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| Sunday 26th May | Holy Masses 9am & 11am |
| Monday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Tuesday 28th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Wednesday 29th May Pope St Paul VI | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Thursday 30th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Friday 31st May Visitation of the BVM | Holy Mass 12 noon 40Exposition 4.30pm |
| Saturday 1st June St Justin, Martyr | Continuous Exposition Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm |

Quarant'ore—Forty Hours Devotion

Next weekend is the Feast of Corpus Christi, it falls on Sunday 2nd June. There are still a few empty slots to sign up for a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during our 40 hours devotion. There used to be a prayer at Benediction that said: "Who remains, night and day, in this Sacrament, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit You." Whether you sign up for a time or not, **please take the opportunity to come and visit the Lord who remains, here, in this Sacrament for you.**

If you'd like a candle to burn for your intentions during the Forty Hours, please speak to someone on the piety stall where you can arrange your sponsorship and label the candle with your intention.

Confirmation

Bishop John Arnold will visit our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Thursday 27th June at 7pm. Any young people who do not attend St Monica's need to register with me in order to be Confirmed on that day. **There will be a preparatory meeting for all those being confirmed on Sunday 9th June at 10am in the Hall.**

Lourdes Collection

A big thank-you for your generosity in raising the money to help some of our young people to go to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. We now have enough to sponsor five young people for £300 each. They are Liam Potts, Josh and Zach Humphreys, Mami Markos and Joe McMonagle.

Tablet Magazine

The *Tablet* Catholic magazine have asked that we pilot selling their publication on the piety stall over the next few weeks. The parish will receive 15% of sales. If you're interested please watch out for its monthly appearance.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet on Monday 27th May at 7pm in the Cottage.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace will be on Wednesday 5th June at 7.30pm in the Hall.

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy will take place this weekend during the 11am Mass.

Playing with the Trinity

St Augustine went for a walk on the beach. He was struggling to understand the doctrine of the Trinity and wanted to clear his head. Just then, he saw a little boy at the shoreline. The boy had a large shell in his hands and was fully occupied filling the shell with water, carrying it up the beach, and pouring the water into a hole he'd made in the sand. Augustine watched the boy go back and forth between the sea and the sand, happily engrossed with his task. "What are you doing?" asked the bishop. "I'm going to pour the whole ocean into this hole." "You'll never do that," said Augustine. The boy looked up and said:- "Well, I'll sooner fit the sea into this small hole, than you will capture the Trinity with your small mind."

Doesn't that famous legend teach us a great deal about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity in our lives? First, that the Trinity is beyond us and never going to be captured by our intelligence. Never captured - but little by little, the truth about God might trickle into us, like water from the little boy's shell. Doesn't the Gospel say that we must become like little children? Having something of their humility and enthusiasm in order to appreciate and enter the mysteries of the kingdom. Jesus says that God doesn't share such wonders with the learned and the clever. The mystery that's before us today isn't a problem to be mastered or even a matter of the mind.

The shell is a symbol of the pilgrimage of life, our journey to God. Back and forth the boy goes up and down the beach. He captures just enough from the ocean's edge to fill his shell and to captivate and delight him. Enough for the moment - he doesn't go after marvels beyond him. And in this he gives a lesson to the wise. Because what's he actually doing that boy? Isn't he just playing? There's no purpose to his efforts. This isn't work. He's engrossed with something useless and pleasure is his only purpose. This is the point. The Book of Proverbs says of God's eternal Word - "the Lord formed me at the beginning before all his works and I was ever at play in his presence."

God reveals God's life to us by inviting us to share it. God wants to occupy our whole self and not just our minds and for no purpose other than God's goodness and our pleasure. This isn't work. C S Lewis said a wonderful thing: "*I think that while we are in this 'valley of tears,' cursed with labour, hemmed round with necessities, tripped up with frustrations, doomed to perpetual plannings, puzzlings, and anxieties, certain qualities that must belong to heaven and God's life have no chance to get through, except through play.*" Work is the way of the world, play the life of God.

We haven't received the spirit of slaves—to work for God—but the spirit of God's children that allows us to play before God and to mirror the life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are constantly at play in heaven.