

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

John Higgins, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, 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.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Pope Francis, Sandra O'Reilly, Paul Ryan, Patience Bush, Pat Gooddy, Marjorie Leigh.
Anniversaries: Roger Neville, Ray & Peggy Neville, Joan Mahood, Catherine Sailsbury, Teresa Buckley, Margaret Noonan, Brian Starr, Anthony Thomond.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Faith lifts the soul. Hope supports it. Experience says it is so—and that’s how Love wants it to be.”

St Elizabeth Seton

“Surrender without reservation is what is asked—it’s required of us so that the face of the earth be renewed.”

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



Heaven

The mission that Jesus entrusts to Peter is not that of barring the doors to the house, permitting entry only to a few select guests, but of helping everyone to find the way to enter, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus. According to God’s plan, Heaven is for everyone.

Pope Francis

 Last Week’s collection was: £2529.19 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart Chapel will be blocked off for renovation..



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the eternal happiness of Pope Francis.



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 27th April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 28th April St George	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 29th April St Catherine of Siena	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 30th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 1st May St Joseph, the Worker	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 2nd May St Athanasius	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 3rd May St Philip and James	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Building Works and Car Parking

The contractor is getting along a little faster than he first estimated. This week, they have been able to have the scaffold delivered early and to erect much of it. It is now no longer necessary for the carpark to be **completely closed** this coming week. Access will be possible. For Sunday Masses and for daily Mass you will have access to the carpark. Please avoid using the carpark at other times unless absolutely necessary.

Magic Night

On Friday 9th May, the Parish Social Committee have arranged for a Magic Night to take place in the Hall at 7.30pm. Rick Taylor is a close-up magic specialist. He will go from table to table to do tricks—there will be supper and the bar will be open. Please come along with friends, take over a table—enjoy company and few drinks and prepare to be amazed. Tickets are £10 and are available from the presbytery or after the Masses next Sunday.

Parishes Tackling Poverty

The Diocese is planning to hold a workshop in the near future on how individual parishes might act to help with the problem of poverty in their local area. If you would like to attend this workshop or be involved with any future possibilities for our parish please let me know via email.

Cafod Talk: The Atrato River, Columbia

Learn more about how your donations make a difference. Join us to hear from our visiting Colombian partners, SIEMBRA, about their work supporting human rights and protecting the environment in the Atrato River region. **Tuesday May 13th, 7.30pm** at Our Lady of Dolours, 500 Bury New Rd, Salford M7 4ND. For more info and to register (for refreshment purposes) email: kkeenan@cafod.org.uk

Cafod Collection

The total enveloped donations for Cafod Fast Day was £1,427.20. The amount in the Starving World Box was £332.00. In total we will be able to send £1759.20 from the Parish. Thank you.

Letters

If you gave to the parish in the financial year that ended on May 5th—either by envelope, standing-order or the Dona terminal please collect a letter from the table near the sacristy.

Three Steps to Faith

We all know the first step because the question Thomas asks at this stage is repeated so often in the life of the church that we have heard it many times. In the Upper Room, on the night before he dies, Jesus tells his disciples that he's going to prepare a place for them in the Father's house, the house of heaven. He tells his friends that they know the way to the place where he's going. And this is when Thomas speaks up - "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" What should we notice about this first step in the act of faith? That Jesus knows about our believing better than we do ourselves: - that he has more confidence in us and a better estimation of our abilities. Jesus insists that we know the way to faith because we know him. He is the way and he is sure that we know him better than we think. And he's right isn't he? When we think about him we do know more than we think. And there's another aspect to this step that's important - essentially believing is about a Person and not about a list of beliefs: at the end of the day it all comes down to a me and you.

The second step is more of a challenge. What does Jesus want from us, this Person who knows us better than we do ourselves? He wants nothing less than our whole lives! Will we risk everything for him? When it comes to it will we put our life on the line for Jesus. The one we call 'doubting' Thomas did. When Lazarus was sick, Jesus knew his enemies were after him. Yet he decides to risk everything and to visit Martha and Mary and his friend Lazarus. The disciples think this reckless, too dangerous - except for Thomas who says: Let's go and die with him! This step is central to the act of faith - it's the step which represents the cost of discipleship. If I believe he's the way, will I go with him to the end?

And then today's Gospel presents us with the final stages of faith: the ultimate step in our believing. Here, Thomas makes it clear that the only One worth following, the only One who is worth the risk of everything, is the One who suffered, and died, and rose again for us. "Unless I can put my hand into his side I refuse to believe." This means more than we first imagine - Thomas is refusing a saviour who only makes everything right in the end. He will only risk his life for One who has been with him on the way - only believe in the victory of One who has been as wounded as we are and who suffers with us and for us.

So it's good to twin ourselves to Thomas today and take up the way of faith