

**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, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Marie Crook, Steve Rogers.

**Anniversaries:** Mark Adam Abbott, Jack Tomkinson, Robert Broe, Jim Anthony Heath.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“To sacrifice who you are and to live without belief is a fate far more terrible than dying.”

St Joan of Arc

“It is not death that will come to fetch me but the Good God. I’m not afraid of a separation that will unite me to God forever.”

St Thérèse of Lisieux



We seem to give them back to You, O God, who gave them first to us. Yet, as You did not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world gives, do you give, O Lover of souls. What You give, You do not take away—for what is Yours is ours also, if we are Yours. And life is eternal and love immortal—death is only an horizon and an horizon is nothing, save the limit of our sight. So lift us up strong Son of God, that we may see further. Draw us closer to Yourself so that we might know ourselves nearer to our loved ones with You. And while You make a place for us, also make us ready for that happy place with You.



Last Week’s collection was: £937.79 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**

<b>Sunday 27th October</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 28th October</b> <b>Ss Simon and Jude</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 29th October</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 30th October</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 31st October</b> <b>All Hallows Eve</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b> <b>Holy Mass 7.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 1st November</b> <b>All Saints</b>	<b>Holy Mass 9.30am</b> <b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Saturday 26th October</b> <b>All Souls</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm</b> <b>Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm</b>

## November Dead

Please take an envelope from the back of church in which to put a list of your beloved deceased relatives and friends. This envelope can be placed in the basket in the sanctuary and during the month of November a novena of Masses will be celebrated for those listed. You may place an offering inside the envelope. Thank you.

## Synod

Leaflets summarising Theme Two: Building Connections are available at the back of church. Meetings to discuss the first two themes are this week

- **Tuesday 29th October at 7pm in the Cottage**
- **Thursday 31st October at 7pm in the Cottage**

Please phone Vin Allerton (0161 7733318) or Eddie Welch (0161 7980309) to let them know if you are going to attend.

## Parish Christmas Fair

This year, the Parish Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 30th Nov**. Tickets for the Christmas Draw will be available from next weekend. If we could take/sell two books of tickets each that would be helpful. The Draw will take place at the **Christmas Choir Concert on Saturday 7th Dec**. A meeting for those who wish to help organise the Fair will be held in the Cottage on **Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Cottage**.

## Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group will meet this **Monday 28th October at 7pm in the Cottage**. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

## Church

Safety improvements to the choir gallery are now complete. A new safety rail was installed and the stairs up to the loft have been made good by removing the old carpet, re-polishing the steps and putting down carpet tiles

You will have noticed a lot of mess on the steps from pigeons roosting above. Pigeon deterrents were installed this week and the entrance and steps have been cleaned. Hopefully, that will be an end to the mess! One of our ornamental trees was stolen a couple of weeks ago—this will be replaced in the next few days: We'll give it one more go ... "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart and go into His house with praise!"

## Wait Until Dark

When I was small, I watched a film that frightened me silly - but it also left a deep impression on me. It was a film with Audrey Hepburn - who played a blind woman. At one point, a man is lurking in her apartment. He wants to kill her. When he lunges at her and she realises he is there, she fuses the lights and plunges her flat into darkness. Being blind, she can move with agility in the dark: She gets scissors from her work basket and when the assailant comes for her again, she stabs him. He slumps down against the fridge. And just when you think it's all over, you realise that he's not dead and that the open fridge is now shedding light on the room. The woman doesn't realise. He lunges up again ... but I won't spoil the end! The film is called *Wait until Dark*.

I'd never considered before what a blessing darkness can be - the darkness of our lives. Doesn't Jesus say, somewhere, that the children of this world are more adept than the children of light? We know our way around the world, don't we? In fact, sometimes we become so clever at coping, that we forget we're in the dark! And yet, it's only because of the darkness that we appreciate the light when it comes—the ease of life in the light, the beauty and the joy of it. We know that just now, as we gain an hour and our lives are gradually limited by the dark—know how wonderful the light is.

Because of darkness we know the beauty of the light. Because of our misery we appreciate God's mercy. We hear the truth of this echo in the desperate cry of the blind man in today's Gospel: "Have pity on me ... let me see again." From his place in the dark, he appreciates the light and from his misery, he reaches out for mercy.

Another thing I learned from that film, was just how careful a blind person must be when putting something down. If they're not precise and exact they won't find it again. Imagine if those scissors hadn't been left in their proper place! So, it's strange then, that on his way to meet Jesus, the Gospel tells us that Bartimaeus threw off his cloak. Or is it strange? So convinced was he of being healed—that he didn't put down the cloak with care. He knew he wouldn't have to grope his way back to where he was before: in the dark. He had faith in the Light.

As winter approaches and we hear that Gospel again—let's bless God for the dark—the dark of the night and of our sin—because it was this that made him come to us—with the beautiful light of his mercy. And remembering the glorious splendour of that light—let's risk all on his goodness and step out from the well-worn habits of our lives—counting on his goodness and truth to guide us to a new and happier life in the light.