



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**FOURTH SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Sunday 28th January</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 29th January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 30th January</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 31st January</b> <b>St John Bosco</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Thursday 1st February</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 2nd February</b> <b>Presentation of the Lord</b>	<b>Requiem Alan Scholes 12 noon</b> <b>Holy Mass 7pm</b>
<b>Saturday 3rd February</b> <b>St Blaise</b>	<b>Exposition 11.30am-1pm</b> <b>Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm</b> <b>Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm</b>

**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron, and Johnny Falloon.

**Prayer Intentions for the Dead**

**Recently Deceased:** Alan Scholes, Gerry Cahill, Joe Fitzpatrick, Bridie McIntyre, Laurence McGough, Vincent McHenry, Margaret Cogger, Rita McLoughlin, Michael McGuire.

**Anniversaries:** Michael Finn, Mary Cavey, Peter Machin, Mary Machin, Tony O'Dowd, Anna Hughes, William Greene, Peter Nolan, Kathleen Hurst, Jean McGerraghy, Mary Davenport, Maureen Rutter, Marie Coleman, Irene Gleeson, Agnes McGeown, John and Elizabeth Caldwell, Maria Bligh (Month's Mind).

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

"If we practice charity, every community will be a little heaven."

St John Bosco

"Overshadow me with your loving kindness Lord."

St Blaise



Saint Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. Blessing of throats will take place after Mass on Saturday.

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other ill.

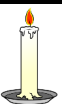


Last Week's collection was: £953.64. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00

If you'd like to make a donation you can do so: [caritassalford.org.uk](http://caritassalford.org.uk)



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for those suffering with addictions.

### Car Park Closure

Please note that on **Tuesday 30th January**, this week, **the carpark will be closed**. J&P Civil Engineering are going to undertake the resurfacing of a significant area of the carpark. Apologies for any inconvenience but this work is necessary so that the carpark barrier can be mended and restored to use. To attend the noon Mass and any events in the halls that day you will need to make other parking arrangements.

### Candlemas

On Friday, February 2nd we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. That day there is a Requiem Mass at noon. So that we might celebrate the Feast, bless candles, and process, I've scheduled a Mass for 7pm on Friday evening.

### Finance Committee

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will be **Thursday 8th February at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery.

### Property Committee

The next meeting of the Parish Property Committee will be **Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm** in the Presbytery.

### The Friendship Group

The Friendship Group meet in the Hall every other Wednesday 12.30pm—3pm. The group was founded to combat loneliness and offer an opportunity for people to meet and socialise. There's a quiz and bingo, tea and coffee and a chance to mix and chat. Everyone is very welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th February and every fortnight afterwards.

### Baptism Meeting

Please note that there will be no Baptism Meeting in the month of January. The next meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is **Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm** in the Hall.

### Caritas Appeal

The Diocesan Caritas appeal is scheduled for Sunday 28th January. But you'll remember that just before Christmas Caritas YCW made an appeal for the Bury Christmas dinner and nearly £1500.00 was collected. In light of this there won't be an appeal here this year but if you would like to make a donation to Caritas Salford you can do this through the diocesan website.

### Children's Liturgy

Today Sunday 28th January during the 11am Mass

### String of Pearls

Somebody once said that Mark's Gospel is like a string of pearls: As if the evangelist sat down one day and strung together all the words and events that were circulating about Jesus. Stories, until then, passed on by word of mouth, were threaded into a narrative. If St Mark did write his Gospel like this, then he did it beautifully and with great care.

My great auntie Gerty had a necklace of pearls. It'd been given her by a woman she took in during the war—a refugee who'd fled Europe and worked with auntie in the cotton mill. The necklace was beautiful. There was one bigger pearl in the centre and then, on either side, matching pearls in sizes that got smaller and smaller to the clasp. The pearls were real and beautiful but as auntie never tired of telling us, it was the arrangement that made them so lovely.

The central pearl, in the Gospel of Mark, is Peter's confession of Jesus as the Son of God. That's the key truth the evangelist wants his listeners to believe. So around this fact he arranges words and events—matching little pearls—to draw attention to the central article of faith.

In today's reading, from chapter one of the Gospel, comes a little pearl: We hear of the possessed man in the synagogue and that the dark spirit "with a loud cry went out of him". There's a pearl that matches this one in the last chapter of the Gospel—at the end of the string as it were—when we hear "Jesus gave a loud cry and gave up his Spirit" - the holy Spirit.

Jesus speaks with authority—and reveals himself to be the Son of God - because he knows the depths of our forsakenness—not just from the outside in the possessed man but from the inside on the cross when he cries "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And Jesus gives up his holy Spirit from that place to us: - so that we might feel the heights of his holiness. As we sang not long ago at Christmas: "and he feeleth for our sadness and he shareth in our gladness." These are the two, matching, beautiful pearls that mark the beginning and the end of the good news and draw us to the central belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

The central pearl of great price—the heart of the fire of faith is strung out through all the experiences of our life—because Jesus our Saviour has inhabited them all from the inside out:—This is why he has the authority and the power to save us from ourselves.