

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Tommy Ode, 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, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Ralph Gorton, Vincent English, Hannah Fisher, Anthony Higgins, Seamus O’Hanlon, Anne Brammer, Derek Buckley, Judy Clayton, Patsy McDaid, Mara Hollywood.

Anniversaries: Vincent Mahood, Angela George, Maura Liston, John Healey, Jessie Green, Terry Connor.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“All the things of this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can know him better, love him more and serve him faithfully.”
St Ignatius Loyola

“He who trusts in himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things.”

St Alphonsus Liguori



Since the Sixteenth Century, Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In our times, this devotion received new emphasis from the visions at Fatima and the associated prayer for world peace. Jesus promised that peace would come to the world through the hands of Mary and at the promptings of her Immaculate Heart. St Maximilian Kolbe liked to see consecration to the Immaculate as a living out of our baptismal promises. She it is who helps us to reject Satan and to live the life of the Gospel in peace.



Last Week’s collection was:
£1154.29 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick of our parish.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for those on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—28TH JULY 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 28th July

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 29th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Tuesday 30th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 31st July

Holy Mass 12 noon

St Ignatius Loyola

Thursday 1st August

Requiem Tony Higgins
12 noon

St Alphonsus Liguori

Friday 2nd August

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 3rd August

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes left on Thursday and our young people took the box of prayer petitions with them. They have now been placed in the Grotto. We pray for the success of the pilgrimage and especially for those we know who are taking part—that their faith will be strengthened and that they'll return refreshed.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for all those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace will be in the Hall on Wednesday 4th Sept 2024 at 7.30pm. **There will be no meeting in the month of August.**

Local Redevelopment

This week, planning permission was given to the Prestwich redevelopment scheme which will begin with the construction of a multi-storey carpark next door to us. Please know that the diocesan solicitors are in negotiations with the developers to try to ensure the best protection for our property and that the building works will not affect buildings and the life and worship of our parish adversely. To this end, you may see people checking the church and monitoring its structure. I'll keep you informed as to any developments.

Social Events

The Social Committee will meet again shortly and we hope to publish a calendar of events very soon. We've taken notice of your preferences and are now in negotiations to try to deliver a varied programme. Any further ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

Sponsored Run for Caritas

We've been asked by Caritas Salford to try to arrange a mid-year event to raise some money for the charity. I'm pleased to let you know that Caroline Johnston, one of our parishioners, is going to run the Manchester Half Marathon on 13th October 2024 in aid of Caritas. You can find details at <https://justgiving.com/page/caroline-johnston-1717606585784> If you would like to make a donation, you can also do that through the presbytery by marking an envelope "Caritas Marathon".

Thank-You

The other evening, I was looking out of my upstairs window when I noticed a few of our young people picking up litter in the carpark and around the church. By the time I got down they had disappeared—so I'd just like to take this opportunity - on behalf of us all—to thank them. Bless you.

God's Grandchildren?

The Pope has designated the Sunday closest to the Feast of Ss Joachim and Anne—the grandparents of Jesus — 'Grandparents' Sunday'. That's today: The Sunday that remembers and celebrates all who have been blessed to see their children's children; those who are graced with being grandparents.

It has been said that, "God has no grandchildren." - And it's true, the Gospel only generates *children* of grace, sons and daughters of God. The Good News must involve an immediate and personal encounter with Christ, that makes us children of our Father, directly. God has no grandchildren because faith does not pass automatically from generation to generation. Yet, all the same, grandparents can have a crucial role in the spiritual rebirth of their children's children and it's this that we celebrate today.

So many people feel hurt and disappointed that their children and grandchildren do not practice the faith that they enjoy. They are sad that the light of faith seems dimmed in later generations. How wonderful, then, that the Gospel for today—Grandparents' Sunday—declares: "There is a small boy here," and speaking of somebody's grandchild, and therefore, everybody's grandchild, records important truths about the spread of the Gospel and the hidden, yet crucial, part grandparents can play in the miraculous work of God. What is it, then, that this small boy teaches us?

I suppose we might wonder, was it this little lad's parents or grandparents, that urged him to step forward with his food? Whatever of that, the Gospel and the boy himself, teach us some very valuable things about faith.

The first and most important is that its workings are governed by God and not by us. Perhaps we should remember this when it seems to us that younger generations have lapsed. Speaking of the feeding of the multitude, the Gospel says, "He himself, knew exactly what he was going to do." Children straying from their faith can be testing for grandparents—but they must always remember that they only assist God and that he remains in charge of the faith life of his children. God alone multiplies faith, as he multiplied the loaves and fishes.

And this multiplication requires trust—which should be the fundamental gift of grandparents. They may have urged the small boy forward, but at some point he had to release what he had to the Lord—he has to surrender. Grandparents must await this moment with trust—allowing God to take charge. There's a sacrifice in letting go—like the boy's sharing of bread: a sacrifice belongs to the child alone. What the child has may not seem enough to others but it is for God. It is for others to encourage not to judge.

So, the place of grandparents in the work of God, is one that is humble and hidden: happy to encourage and never condemn, trusting entirely in God.