

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Barbara Murphy, 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, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes,

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Joan Booth, Stephen Child, Katy McDougall, Jerry McSweeney, Rebecca Garner, Jean Sharples.
Anniversaries: Harry and Irene Caswell, Michael O'Brien, Joe Robinson, Alex Robinson, Gerard Caldwell.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best."

St Jerome.

"Our fulcrum is God; our lever is prayer; prayer which burns with love. With that we can lift the world."

St Therese of the Child Jesus



Oh, my Good Angel, whom God has appointed to be my guardian, enlighten and protect me, direct and govern me, during this day and for ever. Amen



Last Week's collection was:
£1020.46 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart lamp
will burn in thanksgiving.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for all those in our parish
who are sick

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 28TH SEPTEMBER



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 28th September

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 29th September

Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 30th September

St Jerome

Requiem Joan Booth 12 noon

Wednesday 1st October

St Thérèse of Lisieux

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 2nd October

Guardian Angels

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 3rd October

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 4th October

St Francis of Assisi

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

RCIA Course

This year's RCIA course will begin on Wednesday Oct 1st at 7pm in the presbytery. The course will run until Easter and is for adults seeking Baptism or full communion with the Catholic Church.

Cafod Harvest Fast Friday Oct 4th

This year's poster features Waré, a mother and goat farmer in Ethiopia. She used to walk ten hours a day to get water for her family. With help from Cafod, her community built an underground water storage tank, just a ten minute walk from her home.

You can donate using the Gift Envelope included in the newsletter—just put it into the collection in church from next weekend on; or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk

Baptism Meetings

For those who wish to have their child / children baptised here at Our Lady of Grace, we are going to slightly change the format of arranging Baptisms. Currently there is a meeting on the first Wednesday of the month where the necessary forms are completed and dates are agreed.

As of October this will change. The meetings will now be held in-between the 9am Mass and the 11am Mass on the **first Sunday of the month**. So, between 10am and 10:30am approximately, in the Parish Hall. The first meeting will be on **Sunday 5th October**.

Premises Update

Thanks to a generous and anonymous donation the sanctuary floor will be recarpeted and restored. The carpet has been ordered and will be fitted by the end of October. Having settled the stonework on the side door has been pointed and the new oak door is being varnished and finished in the cottage to be installed this week. The ramp will be re-modelled on Tuesday and skirting fitted into the porch. And during November emergency lighting, which should enhance our present poor lighting, will be installed.

Congratulations

To Paul Chisnall and Theo Sharrock who were ordained for our diocese today at St. Luke's Church in Irlam-of-the Heights. Please pray for them as they begin their ministry as priest.

Coming Soon

The Sisters of the Cross and Passion have donated a beautiful white marble statue of St Gabriel Possenti to our Church. It will be installed near the new side-door entrance in the coming weeks. The statue was given in memory of Sr Gemma Gabriel, and Sr Anthony Mary, both Cross and Passion sisters who had a long association with our parish and its school.

Francesco Possenti was born to a professional family on the 1st March 1838 he gave up his ambitions of a secular career and his family wealth and joined the Passionist Congregation. His life was not extraordinary, though he was good at studies and dedicated to prayer, it could be said that nothing special happened to him. Taking the name of the Angel who brought a joyful message to Mary he also added the title of the Sorrowful Virgin at the time of his profession. Possenti was true to his name and lived the joys and sorrows of life in an ordinary way.

Not long after joining the Passionists and before he was ordained priest, Gabriel started to show symptoms of tuberculosis. He remained very cheerful. Even though he knew his desire to be a priest would never be fulfilled, he helped his companions in their efforts and was full of encouragement for others.

Only after his death at the age of 23 were his writings discovered. Many he had burned for fear of pride, but a beautiful journal marking out his struggles to pray and with the spiritual life remained. He died on the 27th February 1862 reaching out to a figure in the room unseen to his brethren. His face was radiant and his smile broad.

What might St Gabriel Possenti have to do with us? Well, the founder of his order, St Paul of the Cross, had a longstanding desire to help people here. Before his death he had a vision of England and was filled with joy to see his sons and daughters working here. Like Sr Anthony Mary and Sr Gemma Gabriel we can hope and pray that St Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin will continue to work among us from his place in heaven.

He is the saint of an ordinary life—someone who tried his best with what he had to give glory to God. His short life wasn't special but filled with the things we face: joys and sorrows, sickness and health, hope and disappointment. All these were part of his struggles as they are ours.

Finally, all of us are in need of friend who can keep his counsel and offer encouragement and support—someone who will be with us throughout the ups and downs of the everyday, bring us a joyful message of new life and, at the hour of death, helping us to reach out smiling to all that awaits us in heaven.