

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, Dan McCormack, Patrick Horner, Joan Eastwood.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Craig Millward, John Henry, Clark Davidson, Michael Gallagher, Baby Stephen Lee Bailey, Stacey Adams, Celia O'Beirne.

Anniversaries: John William Cullen, John and Elizabeth Caldwell.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"The Lord will be satisfied with you. Because for him, who is the most benign, goodwill always compensates for lack of success."
St Jerome Emilliani

"I am definitely loved and whatever happens to me—I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good"

St Josephine Bakhita

Presentation



In honour of the Divine Mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Our lighted candles are a sign of the splendour of the One who comes to expel the dark of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with light. The Mother of God, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.



Last Week's collection was:
£1014.07 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



This week, the Sacred
Heart Lamp burns for
peace in the world.



This week, Our Lady's lamp
burns for a Special Intention.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 2ND FEB 2025



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Sunday 2nd February

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 3rd February
St Blaise

Holy Mass 12 noon
Blessing of Throats after Mass

Tuesday 4th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 5th February
St Agatha

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 6th February

Requiem John Henry 12 noon

Friday 7th February

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 8th February
St Josephine Bakhita

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

Mark McGeehan

Mark returned to St Mary's College, Oscott today to resume his studies and carry on with formation for the priesthood. We will miss him! He's been a fantastic help, and great company during his Extended Parish Placement. I promised that we would keep him in our prayers and urged him to come back again. Let's hope we see him at Easter! At our next Social Committee Meeting I think it would be good for us to discuss a fund-raiser for him. He was so helpful in raising money for our redecoration fund—and I know he will need to buy a few things for his ministry as a deacon and priest. Thanks again for making him so welcome.

Columban Missionaries Appeal

Thank you to Fr Pat O'Beirne, from the Columban Missionaries, who celebrated the Masses and made the appeal. Thanks for making him so welcome and for your generosity. His appeal raised £1,010.00 for the missions.

Prayer Group

The Prayer group will meet in the Cottage from 7pm on Monday 3rd Feb. New members are very welcome.

Radcliffe Male Voice Choir

On Friday 21st February the Radcliffe Male Voice Choir will perform in the Hall and the bar will be open. Tickets will be available from next weekend

Baptism Meeting

There will be a Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th February for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our lady of Grace. The Meeting will take place in the Hall.

Church Building Works

On Friday last, I met with Dominic Roberts, the architect from Roberts and Stone and with Adrian Walker the contractor from Walker Conservation Specialists Ltd. This was to discuss the scheduling for the works on the church roof and side door. These works will begin straight after Easter and should last for a period of around twenty weeks. During this period the roof over the aisle on the sacristy side of the church will be renewed and the lantern above the Sacred Heart chapel. A new entrance porch will also be fashioned near the present side door. Plans will be displayed shortly.

Today's feast always makes me think of the closeness of Jesus to us - his presence to us through the generations and his immediate presence to us now. Our Lord is far, far closer than we ever think. I remember it was on this particular feast that a visiting missionary caused a stir in my home parish. He preached about the generations that divide us from Jesus. A generation is generally twenty-five years, he said. Did we know there were only 80 generations between us and Jesus? That if each generation shook hands, we'd only have to shake hands with eighty people until we shook the hand of Christ! There was more: He reminded us that on the Feast of the Presentation, the gap is less: Today, it's the senior generation, the grandparents, who reach out to embrace the child. So we have to halve the generations: If the Simeons and Annas reach across the years for a baby—then there'd only be forty generations. And then he maybe went too far! He made forty people stand in line, hand in hand, between the altar and the exit. "Not far, is it, across the years, between us and Him?" He asked.

It struck me, then, looking at that line-up, that Simeon and Anna were even closer still. Anna Turpluk was one of the old ladies marking the generations that day. She was our Anna, the prophetess amongst us, I thought. She fascinated me. Ukrainian, always smiling and happy - full of life at eighty. Everyone knew she'd survived the death camps in the war, because of the numbers tattooed on her arm. If her arm reached out, He was even closer. In her falling and rising; the hand of Jesus somehow touched us now.

At first Simeon's words to Mary seem mysterious: "Behold this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many - so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." But, in fact, they're not so strange. There are Annas and there are Simeons all over. They are in all places and in every generation - many hearts hold a secret that reveals the face of Jesus to us now. Women and men whose lives are marked by holiness - because over the years of falling and rising the Paschal Mystery has brought them into the house of God, into the presence of Jesus and a close relationship with Him. When you reach out to shake hands before communion - you're not only reaching out across the years, but into the mystery of a life that's marked by the ups and downs of life's journey, marked by the falling and rising of many, by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Anna Turpluk taught me that. And that brings the Lord closer and gives us real communion with the man who walked the earth 2025 years ago.

Isn't this the key to those words from the Letter to the Hebrews? "Since the children share in flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery."