

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK**

Pope Francis, 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, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, Dan McCormack, Joan Eastwood.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD**

**Recently Deceased:** Philomena Carty, Mary McNelly, Nick Gilbert, Brian Rostron.

**Anniversaries:** Pat O'Malley, Margaret Ann Fallon, Kitty Sweeney, Lilian Cheetham, Margaret Tomlinson, Michael Goodman, Begonã Peinador, Dennis Vancalsteren.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**

“I have made a pact with my tongue, not to speak when my heart is disturbed..”

St Francis de Sales

“A heart-memory is better than a head-memory. Better to carry away a little of the love of Christ in our souls, than if we were able to repeat every word of the catechism .” St. Francis de Sales



“Mere appearances, dishonesty, and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. It is the basis for any sound life project; nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart. False appearances and untruths ultimately leave us empty-handed.”  
Pope Francis, *Delixit nos* 6.

 Last Week's collection was: £1092.72 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



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



This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for peace in Jerusalem and Gaza.



**OUR LADY OF GRACE  
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY  
OF ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 2nd March	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 3rd March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 4th March Shrove Tuesday	Requiem Philomena Carty 12 noon
Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday	Holy Mass 12noon & 7pm Distribution of Ashes
Thursday 6th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 7th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 8th March	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

## Lent Packs

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday. I've prepared a little pack to help each one of us on our Lenten journey. Please feel free to take one each. Please read it and use it. It's a little gift from me! Inside you will find a copy of St Luke's Gospel, a little pamphlet of mine that CTS has published, your Cafod envelope and a book mark. If you would like to make a donation for the pack which after costs will go to Cafod—you can do so in the baskets provided. Happy Lent!

## St Patrick's Night Celebration

There are a few tickets left for the St Patrick's Night Celebration on Sunday 16th March at 7.30pm. New Silver Dollar will provide the music and there will be a bar and dancing. Tickets are £10 and are available after Mass. Entrance will be by ticket only.

## Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 3rd March at 7pm.

## Parish Works

Works are scheduled to begin to the church roof, sacristy roof, Sacred Heart Chapel roof, side porch, and to the pinnacles over the main entrance on Tuesday 22nd April. The works should last for a period of 21 weeks. Details of the works and how it will affect us are on the noticeboard at the back. Please familiarise yourself with things there.

## Easter Marmalade

I'm back in production. Late January and early February is the season for Seville Oranges. Recently, I purchased plenty so as to be able to make some more marmalade. This will be on sale at Easter to help raise funds for the redecoration of the church. If you have any clean jars with tight fitting lids please drop them into the presbytery as I can make use of them.

## Dona Card Machine

A reminder that the Dona card machine, installed at the foot of the choir-loft stairs is fully functioning. Should it be easier for you to make your weekly offering by card, you can do so with this machine. If you wish your donation to be gift aided then it's necessary to register first through the website at <https://donate.mydona.com/our-lady-of-grace-prestwich>

## The Abundance of the Heart

Just before Lent begins a beautiful phrase in the Gospel draws our attention to the heart: to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to our own hearts. "Out of the abundance of the heart." The words of Jesus to us today come from the abundance of his Heart. He is the good person, who from the good tree of the Cross bears good fruit—the treasures of grace that he wants to give us in this coming season to make our hearts like his.

It's important that we think of his Heart first because he loved us first. It's good to know that and to have that promise before ever we begin. We must be grounded in this fact if we are to "be steadfast and immovable" this Lent, "always abounding in the work of the Lord". It's likely we'll make a false start if we begin for any other reason than this:—to respond to the love with which Jesus loved us first.

If we start Lent thinking of it as a battle by which we'll become better, a season of discipline to correct our wayward hearts, or worse still, as penance or punishment for our sins, we aren't going to get very far. But if Lent becomes an opportunity for us to respond to God and to love him just for his loving us first—then we have far more of a chance of success.

Maybe this is why our readings draw us to the image of the heart today. The pulse of love that first came to us from the Heart of Jesus is what gives us the ability to respond. Each of us has a heart that can beat with the love of God—because God loved us first and with a human heart. If we are attentive to the impulses of love that God gives us in so many different ways each day, if we allow ourselves to feel the slow regular pulse of God's eternal love for us—then this can become the beat of our hearts too.

It's a discipline of love we are about to be involved in: A time when we will reconcile our hearts to the rhythms of God's heart. There is no punishment, and it should be a sweet penance to let other impulses subside, unhealthy patterns and rhythms go—and only the pulse of love remain.

This discipline of love demands an honesty about ourselves. Pope Francis recently said this in a letter about the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "Mere appearances, dishonesty, and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. The heart is the basis for any sound life project." Maybe this is why Jesus calls out our hypocrisy today too. Maybe he's asking that our project this Lent be that of having a humble, honest, and true heart that beats with love towards others like his does.