

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, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad, Kevin McCormick, Ellen Sumaya

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Paul Moseley, Robert O'Rourke, Michael Moore, Anna King, Elaine Carroll, John Snape, Deacon Paul Mayland.
Anniversaries: Judith Ruddie, Kayombo Tshikaya, Members of the Carson and Logan families, Robert O'Connor, Peter Andrews, Shirley Higgins.

MORE NEWS

Prayer Group

This week, the Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage: Monday 3rd November 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Baptism Meeting

Today, between the 9am and 11am Masses there is a meeting for all those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace. Please go into the Parish Hall and make yourself known to the Baptism Team.

Hosting an Overseas Student for Christmas

If you'd be willing to host a foreign student for a three night stay over Christmas 24th—27th December please contact EIL Host on 01684 562577.



Last Week's collection was:
£1000.06 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart lamp
will burn for all the
faithful departed.



This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for those who have begun
the RCIA course here.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 2ND NOVEMBER 2025



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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 Email: philip.caldwell@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Sunday 2nd November

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 3rd November

Memorial of All Souls

Holy Mass 12 noon & 7pm

Tuesday 4th November

St Charles Borromeo

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 5th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 6th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 7th November

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 8th November

Saturday Memorial of the BVM

Holy Mass 11am
 Confessions 4-4.40pm
 Vigil 5pm

Caritas

There will be a forthcoming appeal from Caritas about ending Child Poverty. Will you please add your voice and call for an end to child poverty across the Diocese of Salford? Pledge cards are available at all Masses today and next week. These will be delivered to MPs before the next Budget. Caritas Salford is a charity that works across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, asking for change so that no child has to live in poverty. To find out more, visit www.caritassalford.org.uk/Add My Voice or call 0161 817 2250.

November Remembrance

Please take an envelope with you today and make of it a memorial for your beloved dead. Compile a list of the names of the faithful departed known to you, place it in the sealed envelope, and return this here—you can place it into the basket in the sanctuary or leave it at the presbytery. During the month of November a novena of Masses will be celebrated for all those listed. If you wish, you may place a donation in the sealed envelope.

Service of Remembrance

Paul Williams Funeral Directors has organised a Service of Remembrance to take place here on Monday 10th November at 7pm. Principally, for those who have lost a loved one in the past year, the service is open to all — whenever you experienced your loss and which ever firm conducted the funeral. Anyone is welcome to attend this Service.

Car Park Restriction

Please check the noticeboard for details of week-day parking restrictions.

Parish Christmas Fair

This year, the Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 29th November from 12noon until 4pm. There will be a meeting for those who wish to be involved shortly. Please bring all donations of gifts, prizes, bric-a-brac, toys and bottles to the presbytery.

Friendship Club

The next meeting of the Group will be on Wednesday 12th November 12.30

To Be in That Number

In the beginning Jesus chose twelve close companions, a group who mirrored the ancient twelve tribes of Israel. Later, he chose six times as many: seventy-two others who were sent out in pairs. And they increased, until the Apocalypse began to look forward to one hundred and forty-four thousand being saved:- a number impossible to count; but a multiple of the basic unit of God's first choice - an echo of the original pattern. What of this basic pattern, the shape of the chosen company of all the saints? Is it just a coincidence that the hundred and forty fourth psalm prays "Blessed be the Lord my rock, who trains my hands for battle, my fingers for war! He is my fortress, my stronghold, my deliverer - my shield in whom I trust"? No! Not a coincidence. From the beginning, in the Christian consciousness, all the saints have been numbered like an army of salvation, marching in glory and a hundred and forty four thousand is the number we want to be in - the number that counts for God's choice of the blessed. Since the time of Solomon, the chosen have wondered: "Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon and bright as the sun - terrible as an army in battle array."

Why might the image of all the saints as an army be helpful to us - especially in these days when we eschew all things military and the thought of conflict is so unappealing? Well first let's think about the seal and the shield - images so important to early Christians. Those who are chosen are sealed with an indelible mark. A Christian's sense of belonging to God and to their brothers and sisters in Christ was such that they looked for a way of explaining this deep sense of solidarity - one of the best, suggested it was like the soldier who was branded - sealed in a company which he could never desert and outside of which was no meaning or life. Christians wanted to be in that sort of company with God and never to lose that life - gladly they would be sealed with the seal of the living God - in all circumstances they would take up the shield of faith.

Perhaps you have seen some of the formations that the Roman battalions took - the groups of soldiers with shields to right and left and above that could move towards the enemy - like tortoise or armadillo, unharmed. This was the number Christians wanted to be in - a formation where if one is injured or falls, the ranks can close, a group which gives protection from all sides and can go forward against all difficulty and obstruction. A formation which shared a common life.

This is the pattern of life and love that Jesus looks to in the Beatitudes: the vision of the blessed - what peacemakers and the pure of heart can achieve between themselves: what the gentle and those who suffer can make manifest amongst one another: - the formation Pope Francis saw in his image of the church as a field hospital amidst the battle of life.

In the Eucharistic Prayer of the Roman Canon we pray "admit us into their company we beseech you" - lock us in, seal us into this formation of all the saints - those who are shielded by faith, share life and are protected from harm. Even if military language no longer echoes with us - what it represents does the fact that all that matters is being true to the form of the Body of Christ - the form it had in the beginning has now in us and will have forever in all the saints.