

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.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Giovanni Taurasi, Sister Frances Harris, Ann Devaney, Bridget Deegan.

Anniversaries: Brian Gavigan, James McManus.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

"The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them."

St Gregory the Great

"Have faith and wholeheartedly trust God who will never abandon those who love Him."

St Cuthbert

pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real



Last Week's collection was:
£1011.22 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER — 31ST AUGUST 2025



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 31st August

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 1st September

NO MASS

Tuesday 2nd September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 3rd September

St Gregory the Great

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 4th September

St Cuthbert

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 5th September

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 6th September

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

Buildings Etc

Redecoration of the two side chapels is nearly complete. Dominic from Roberts & Stone architects and Marcus from Walker Construction selected traditional colours based on their experience decorating other churches in the North West. The red and blue is lighter than previously. The central sanctuary area will be completed in a plain buttermilk colour. Sadly, scaffolding was delayed this week but this will be installed on Monday. The stone work on the side door is also near completion and the new door will arrive shortly. The Premises Committee have concerns about the quality and usability of the ramp to the side-door and this will be re-done soon. At our recent meeting of the Premises and Finance Committees we discussed the commissioning of a structural report on the north side of the church which was requested by our insurers. This will go ahead in mid September. When this and the repair and redecoration work is complete the Committees will give a full progress and finance report to the parish.

Tea and Turf—Save the Date

The Parish Social Committee are pleased to announce an exciting new event for the Autumn. A group of parishioners—former members of OLOG PTA and old hands at arranging memorable parish events—are organizing a social in aid of the Redecoration Fund. This will take place on **Sunday 12th October** from 3pm onwards. It will comprise a ‘Slattery’s’ Afternoon Tea and an Afternoon at the Races: Our very own Ascott to lift your spirits as the nights draw in. Tickets available soon.

Quiz and Bingo Night

Last chance for the Quiz and Bingo Night facilitated by Sue and Joanne from the Friendship Club: Friday 5th September at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £2 each after Mass.

Honey Badgers Beatles Concert

On Sunday 7th Sept from 2.45pm The Honey Badgers will perform a Beatles tribute concert in aid of Duchenne UK Muscular Dystrophy. The organisers welcome parishioners who might like to attend—£5 entrance cash on the door.

200 Club

A few numbers are available if anyone would like to join the club

Knowing our Place

One of my jobs on a Saturday evening is choosing the hymns for the vigil Mass - it's been more difficult since our organist has been away in August. I have to resist the urge of just choosing my favourites or the ones we all know. *Christ Be Beside Me* is a weekly temptation! It's one of my favourites and I know you know it - and probably like it too. But it's not without its questions that hymn, is it?

I guess one of the reasons it's loved by so many is because of the comfort it brings, the assurance it gives. “Where is your God?” is a question we all have to face - believers and unbelievers alike. There are times when we can answer easily, when God is in His heaven and all seems right in our world. But there are other times when that question really bites: times of tears and suffering when the question seems like a taunt. How can our God be in the heavens, doing what He wills when our world and our lives are a mess?

Even if we take the question more literally it can be a tricky one. If we say our God is up above - higher than any other God - then isn't God down below too? And if God is for us isn't He with the others? If He's beside me isn't He beside you?

Paul Tillich, was a Lutheran chaplain during the First World War - he was awarded the Iron Cross for the bravery with which he cared for German soldiers. In the Second World War he opposed the Nazis and had to flee to America. These experiences made him think a bit more about where God is and whose side God's on. He didn't like to think of up or down, with us or against us, behind or before. He wouldn't think of God as another being alongside human beings. He said that God is Being itself - God is in and through everything. Tillich would have liked the hymn of St Patrick's breastplate - which is really saying that beside, before, behind God is never apart. It wasn't a question of up or down, higher or lower, better or worse. For Tillich the beauty of the Gospel is that God is with us in Christ in every place. God has remained with us in all our sufferings and joys and shot them through with His presence. He has set up his Cross in the lowest of places—simply to prove that nowhere is without God.

So when Jesus invites his disciples to take the lower place today he's inviting us to be grounded and to be true to God's presence in every place and everyone. Inviting us not to give in to the illusion that there are privileged people and places—high-ups who have won God's favour. Jesus Christ won God's favour in the lowest of places—to make it clear to us and to all that God is everywhere and without favourites: It's just that, as we know, God is more easily found, as another Irish poet said: “down where all the ladders start, in the foul rag and bone shop of the heart.”