

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Federico Angiolini, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: Eileen Tolan and John Sheehy.

Anniversaries: Peggy McGloin, Anthony Richards, Janet Richards, Bridie Connolly, Michael Murphy, Brigid Imelda Rogers, Peter Anthony Rogers, Bridie Heavy, Lionel Slater, Emily Slater, Peter Stevens.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS



“Nothing escapes God’s knowledge or God’s mercy. This is proved by the witness of the Bible and by analogy with the sun—which though created by it’s light and heat enters all.”
St Ambrose

“The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God’s giving—by grace, through faith so that this giving is not from ourselves.”
St Nicholas.



“If I only had a few more minutes to live, I wouldn’t want to waste them talking to God about my sins. I would want to thank him for all the love, all the joy. Because all your love, your stretching out, your hope, your thirst, God is creating in you so that he may fill you. God is on the inside of the longing.”
From *The Coming of God* by Sr. Maria Boulding OSB.

	Last Week’s collection was: £1165.00 Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick of our parish.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the children at Our Lady of Grace School.
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OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 3rd December	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 4th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 5th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 6th December	Requiem Eileen Tolan 12 noon
Thursday 7th December St Ambrose	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 8th December Immaculate Conception	School Mass 9.30am Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 9th December	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Advent Wreath Making

It's that time again! If you'd like to make an Advent wreath for your home then come to the Hall today, Sunday, starting at 1.30pm until 3pm and please bring some scissors and foliage. All welcome.

Advent Service of Recollection and Healing

There will be a Service of Reconciliation and healing for the parish, here at the church, on Tuesday 12th December at 7pm. It will be an opportunity for us to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Saviour. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick for those who wish and I've invited a number of priests to come and hear confessions.

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 4th December from 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join.

YCW

Thanks to Zach and Josh who spoke at the Masses on Christ the King and are working hard to set up something for young people in our parish: they even had a stall at the Fair. If you'd like to be involved please let me know.

Baptism Meeting

The meeting for those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace is this Wednesday 6th Dec at 7.30pm in the Hall.

One Step Forward ...

It was a relief to hear that Fogharty's think they have located the problem with the roof over the side aisle and in the new year they will return to fix it—weather permitting! Unfortunately, the problem with one of the boilers continues, though Medway have decided that we need a new pump. This will be fitted shortly along with a new gas pipe. This means that, at the moment, the heating is not at full strength but I hope this will be resolved in the next few days.

I'm grateful to Lorraine Littlewood who has done a lovely job making altar coverings for the two side chapels. The under cloths are hand embroidered and have taken hours and hours to make. Thankfully, Lorraine only charged us for material. Please take a look while lighting a candle.

Christmas Mass Times

This year Christmas Day falls on a Monday. On Sunday, 24th December Mass times for the 4th Sunday of Advent, will be in the morning—9am and 11am as usual. That evening there will be Christmas Eve Masses at 7pm and 12 Midnight. On Christmas Day there will be Mass at 9am and 11am.

Rose Hawthorne Lathrop

On this First Sunday of Advent—the day when we first get a sense of the coming of our God, when we light our first Advent candle and sense the beginnings of his presence among us: A presence that'll one day be complete and full and unambiguous. On this day, I'd like to speak about Rose Hawthorne Lathrop. I'd like to mention her because she recognised the beginnings of this presence in her daily life and she lived in expectation of it's complete manifestation. Rose grasped the meaning of Advent—and the story of her life is a wonderful one.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, the famous American writer and author of *The Scarlet Letter* was Rose's father. He and his wife were well-to-do believers who gave their daughter a privileged upbringing. But Nathaniel died when Rose was young and she and her mother had to live within the means of a widow. When her mother died, Rose married George Lathrop and the two became Catholics. Initially happy, the marriage proved to be a hasty union that later crumbled under the stress of life. Rose had a son, Francie, who she and her husband cherished but when he died at the age of four, the couple fell apart. George turned to drink and increasingly fearful of him, Rose left. She could only afford a small flat in the poorest district of town where her eyes were opened to the realities of life for many. At 45 years of age, on her own and needing to work, Rose began to train as a nurse.

One day, a woman with cancer of the face, asked Rose if she could come and live with her in her tiny flat—so as not to suffer and die alone. Of that moment Rose later said: "A fire was then lighted in my heart, just a spark at first, though it still burns .. I set my whole self to bring consolation to the cancerous poor". That Advent moment, represented the beginnings of a presence - in the midst of her desolation, she sensed the coming of God.

When George died in 1898, Rose had already been joined by a friends and was accepted by the people. Outside her shifts she did housework and made food for the children of young mothers who were suffering. She did all the small tasks that those with cancer can't manage—she spent hours sitting with the dying at night. Eventually, Rose founded the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne—insisting that they must take only the lowest class in poverty and suffering into their care—the cancerous poor. "So that if our Lord knocked at the door we would not be ashamed to show what we had done."

The Advent moment when the fire was lighted in her led to another Advent moment that Rose lived under all her life—the moment when the Lord might knock—when he would come again. In the midst of her own desolation Rose reached out to grasp the presence she sensed - and she held on to the expectation of the full revealing of that presence when the Master returns. On the First Sunday of Advent we stand waiting with Rose.