



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

11, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1AS
Tel: 0161 773 2324

Website: ourladyofgrace.co.uk
Email: philip.caldwell@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Caroline Williams, Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles.

Prayer Intentions for the Dead

Recently Deceased: Arthur Toomer, Janet Toomer, Michael O’Donoghue.

Anniversaries: Margaret Ann Fallon, Lilian Cheetham, Michael Goodman, Margaret Tomlinson, Pat O’Malley, Bernard McGarraghy, Eric Taylor, John Bagshaw, Maureen Doyle, John Barnes, Helen Scofield, John Livsey, Doreen McCormick, Kitty Sweeney, Dennis Vancalsteren.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“For just as water extinguishes a fire, just so does charity blot out our sins.”

St John of God

“A wife and mother must sometimes leave God at the altar to find him in her work.”

St Frances of Rome



“All things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we come to know Him better, love him more surely and serve Him more faithfully. As a result, we ought to appreciate and use these gifts of God insofar as they help us toward our goal of loving service and union with God. But insofar as any created things hinder our progress toward our goal, we ought to let them go.”
St Ignatius Loyola

	Last Week’s collection was: £1113.30. Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for those having chemotherapy.
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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 3rd March	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 4th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 5th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 6th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 7th March	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 8th March	Holy Mass 8am Holy Mass 12noon
Saturday 9th March	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

St Patrick's Night Celebration

Tickets are still available for the St Patrick's Night Celebration. They're priced at £8 each and available at the Piety Stall at the back of church.

Day of Recollection for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

On Saturday, 16th March I'm hoping to have a few hours recollection for our parish Ministers and Readers. If we met for Mass at 11am, we could then go over to the Hall for two short talks and a buffet lunch together. I expect the recollection being complete by 3pm at the latest. It would be great if as many of us as possible could meet together.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday provides a perfect opportunity for the commissioning and recommissioning of ministers. I understand that some may be away for Easter but it would be good if as many as possible could attend the commissioning.

YCW Sponsored Walk

On Saturday 16th March, the YCW group are holding a 20mile Lent Walk from OLOG to Peel Tower and back. Other YCW groups have been invited. The group will be meeting in the Cottage at 8am and will be putting on breakfast and end-of-day refreshments. If anyone else would like to join or to sponsor, then please contact Nigel Humphreys on 07985437875 or email ycwimpact@outlook.com Hopefully, this can develop into a yearly event for Bury parishes in Lent.

Cafod Family Fast Appeal

Thanks to all those who have returned their envelope via the collection bags. So far we have raised £930.00. If you haven't returned your envelope yet please place it in the collection this weekend or next.

Baptism Meeting

There are no baptisms during Lent. The next meeting for those seeking a baptism at Our Lady of Grace will be on **Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm** in the Hall.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 4th March at 7pm

Threads Through Creation—Blackburn Cathedral

This is an astonishing display of twelve huge embroidered panels inspired by the Book of Genesis. The Exhibition is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm and Sundays 12noon-3pm. All are welcome to come and see this exuberant representation of the first days of Creation.

Book Club: Monday 11th March at 2pm in the Cottage. All Welcome

Conquering the Fortress

A word from today's Gospel echoes with us from the first Sunday of Lent - from Christ's temptations in the wilderness. Just now, we heard that Jesus "drove out" all those who were buying and selling in the Temple. And the people ask his authority for doing this? Well, we were told of his authority, when we heard the Gospel say, previously, that the Spirit "drove" him into the wilderness. He can drive out because he was driven in: Because in the wilderness of his heart, he had the experience of being tempted, yet conquering, Satan. So now, the same Holy Spirit gives him the authority to drive out the evil that holds humanity captive in their hearts.

Before ever he was a priest, or founder of the Jesuits, St Ignatius of Loyola was a soldier. During a siege on the Spanish city of Pamplona, his leg was shattered by a canon ball and he had to be treated and to convalesce. In that painful period of his life, he learned to fight in a different way. He took to the battlefield of his own mind and heart; came to know Jesus as his Captain in the fight and how Jesus conquers the fortress of our heart. It was on his sickbed that Ignatius learned the ways of his Spiritual Exercises and set out the rules of combat, that he learnt from our Saviour.

One or two of his rules are very helpful for our understanding both of today's Gospel and our battle to gain possession of our heart this Lent. In his first rule, St Ignatius says that the enemy most commonly uses apparent pleasures and superficial delights, to hold us captive and prevent us from growing in knowledge and love. The Devil traps us on the surface of life with money, pleasure and shallow things and stops our heart from engaging with God, who is actually at the heart of all that makes life good. In his own battle, Ignatius discovered that the good spirit of Jesus fights for us by driving us on to discover God in all things and at the heart of life.

And this is what we see in the Gospel isn't it? Jesus overturning all that is superficial, 'the rag and bone shop of our hearts' and taking possession of the centre. It's why we try to fast and pray at this time - in order to let go of what holds us and be free to engage with what really attracts us deep down.

There's another rule of St Ignatius that is helpful too. That as soon as we try to go from good to better, the evil spirit will bring obstacles and discouragement. Then we must have patience and remember that the Lord is at our side and will bring consolations on our way. To these graces we must cling for encouragement and little by little, the Lord will gain ground.

Finally, the mysterious last lines of our Gospel hint at our ultimate reward. Jesus doesn't entrust himself to those who are enthralled by his miracles and trapped by superficial things. He knows what's in our heart and when we have the discipline to discover what's there too: he will give himself to us in great measure. The psalm says: he is my love, my fortress my saviour.