

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Fr Brendan Curley, Christopher Flynn.
Anniversaries: Evelyn Harrison, Gordon Holt, Albert Gilbert, Elizabeth and Hugh Moore, Joyce Burke.
The family of the late Chris Burke wish to thank members of the parish for their kindness after his death. Holy Mass will be celebrated for your intentions.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“There is no God but one, who made heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them. Those who worship Him in true faith will have eternal life.”
 St Willibrord

“We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honour.”
 St Charles Borromeo



An Extract from *No Matter What*

Small said: “But what about when you’re dead and gone? Would you love me then? Does love go on?”
 Large held Small snug as they looked out at the night, at the moon in the dark and the stars shining bright.
 “Small, look at the stars—how they shine and glow. Yet some of those stars died a long time ago. Still they shine in the evening skies ... love, like starlight, never dies.”
 Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Last Week’s collection was: £1213.00 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Holy Souls.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for a Special Intention.



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 3rd November	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 4th November St Charles Borromeo	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 5th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 6th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 7th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 8th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 9th November Dedication of the Lateran	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

November Dead

Please take an envelope from the back of church in which to put a list of your beloved deceased relatives and friends. This envelope can be placed in the basket in the sanctuary and during the month of November a novena of Masses will be celebrated for those listed. You may place an offering inside the envelope. Thank you.

Service of Remembrance

On Monday 11th November at 7pm in the Church there will be a Service of Remembrance. Principally, this is for those who have lost a loved-one in the last year but anyone can attend. The Service has been organised by Paul Williams Funerals Ltd but is not limited to those who have used his services

Parish Christmas Fair

This year, the Parish Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 30th Nov** A meeting for those who wish to help organise the Fair will be held in the Cottage on **Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Cottage.**

Christmas Draw Tickets

Draw tickets are available from this weekend. As usual two books of tickets—amounting to £10—have been placed in an envelope for you to take. If you could help us to sell these and return the stubs and monies to the Presbytery when you have I'd be very grateful. There are some wonderful prizes and this is a significant source of income for the parish. This year, all proceeds will go to the re-decoration of the church.

Choir Concert

The Social Committee are aware that there are a lot of demands on your generosity at this time. We are trying to vary our events to make some more easily affordable. We have arranged for the Manchester Gospel Choir to sing in church at 7.30pm on the evening of Saturday 7th December. Tickets will only be £2. We hope as many of the parish as possible will come. After the concert in Church the Hall and Bar will be open for refreshments and the Christmas Draw will take place. Tickets will be available soon.

Synod Meetings

There are two more meetings scheduled for this week to discuss Synod themes: **Thursday 7th Nov at 2pm and Friday 8th Nov at 7pm.** Please let the organisers know if you are attending: 0161 773 3318 / 0161 798 0309.

Darkness Visible

In last week's Gospel, Jesus healed a man from blindness and let him see clearly. In this week's, a clear-sighted Scribe, who is full of faith, is blinded by the Lord's words. And so, through the Gospel today, we're invited to return to the dark - to the night of faith.

The Scribe asks Jesus which is the greatest of the commandments. In answer, Jesus recites the definitive prayer of Judaism, the *Shema*: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is the one Lord and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and you must love your neighbour as your self." It is a universal Jewish custom, that anyone saying this sacred text, covers their eyes with their right hand while they say the words slowly and deliberately. I wonder did Jesus cover his eyes as he said these words? And did the faithful Scribe do the same when he answered Jesus with the words of that holy prayer?

The reason for the custom—similar to us closing our eyes to pray—is that in order to give God the respect and honour he deserves, his children blind themselves to the world and refuse to be distracted by any of its attractions. It's the right hand that is raised over the face; a sign that all strength is surrendered to God. And the hand resting on the face becomes a symbol of God's glory: the glory that rests on a person when they come into God's presence. Do you remember the story from Exodus about Moses in the cleft of the rock? Our Psalm today references that event, when God says: "And it shall be that when My glory passes by, I will place you into the cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with My hand until I have passed by."

Moses must enter a dark and narrow place and be blinded to the world in order to see God's glory. And this truth is at the heart of the Christian tradition too and at the heart of each of our lives. Jesus enters that dark and narrow place on the Cross when he is blinded to everything—even his Father: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" We all, at times, enter a dark place. But trapped and blinded to everything, in all our vulnerability, we somehow feel God's closeness to us too. We have all been touched by the events of life that have brought on this darkness: we have been blind-sided by grief or sickness, trapped by stress or depression, stuck in difficulties that have taken all the shine from life. But just then, haven't we also felt the closeness of God and the glory of his presence?

In our own tradition, it's St John of the Cross who teaches this truth with clarity and great beauty: the dark night of the soul. "O, guiding night: O, night more lovely than the dawn; O night that has united the soul with the Beloved—and made her glorious with His love."