

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Tommy Ode, 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, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Mary Jane Cruz.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Seamus O’Hanlon, Hannah Fisher, Danny Grant, Tony Higgins, Mary Cunningham, Ronnie Whitelaw,

Anniversaries: Daniel Hindle, Brigid Rogers, James Carr.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“A person who governs their passions, is master of their world. We must either command them or be governed by them.”
St Dominic

“I felt that those who understood the Cross of Christ should take it upon themselves on everybody’s behalf.”
St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross



Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

 Last Week’s collection was: £1045.83 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for Joan .

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—4TH AUGUST 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 4th August	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 5th August Dedication of St Mary Major	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 6th August The Transfiguration of the Lord	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 7th August	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 8th August	Requiem Seamus O’Hanlon 12 noon
Friday 9th August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 10th August	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Student for the Priesthood

The Bishop has asked for us to take a student who is preparing for the priesthood for some pastoral experience. Mark McGeehan, who is in his fourth year of training, will join us sometime in September and stay until the new year. While he is here he will be involved with every aspect of parish life but in particular with ministry in our hospitals and schools. I'm sure you'll make him very welcome and encourage him on his journey.

Prayer Group

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on Monday 5th August at 7pm in the Cottage. **All are welcome.**

Local Redevelopment

This week, planning permission was given to the Prestwich redevelopment scheme which will begin with the construction of a multi-storey carpark next door to us. Please know that the diocesan solicitors are in negotiations with the developers to try to ensure the best protection for our property and that the building works will not affect buildings and the life and worship of our parish adversely. To this end, you may see people checking the church and monitoring its structure. I'll keep you informed as to any developments.

Social Events

The Social Committee will meet again this week and we hope to publish a calendar of events very soon. We've taken notice of your preferences and are now in negotiations to try to deliver a varied programme. Any further ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

Sponsored Run for Caritas

We've been asked by Caritas Salford to try to arrange a mid-year event to raise some money for the charity. I'm pleased to let you know that Caroline Johnston, one of our parishioners, is going to run the Manchester Half Marathon on 13th October 2024 in aid of Caritas. You can find details at <https://justgiving.com/page/caroline-johnston-1717606585784> If you would like to make a donation, you can also do that through the presbytery by marking an envelope "Caritas Marathon".

Pilgrims Progress

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes has returned—and the news from our young people is very positive: they had a wonderful experience. Our prayer intentions were placed in the grotto and the pilgrims kept us in their prayers. I hope that some feedback will be shared next week.

Seeing the Signs

A green light tells us to go, the microwave pings to indicate our food is ready, someone shakes their head and we know it's going to be a no. Our lives are governed by signs—from the alarm that wakes us in the morning to the sign of the cross we make before bed. All day long, signs have made us take one direction or another.

What about the signs God gives to direct our lives in his way? Each day has just as many of these: signs that bring us into God's presence and indicate God's will. If we were as accustomed to these as we are to the notifications on our phones, our lives would maybe be more peaceful, happier.

Because we're a bit like the people in today's Gospel, aren't we? People who amidst the comings and goings of life—amid all that's going on—suddenly say of God: "How did you come to be here?!" We know the signs that suggest a change in the weather—but not the signs that suggest a change that is necessary in our lives.

Ignatius of Loyola was a soldier who became brilliant at reading God's signs and expert in directing others to a better, happier and holier life. He learnt the hard way—as we often do. During a battle at Pamplona, his leg was badly injured by a cannon ball. While they re-set his leg, he became more and more aware of the signs by which God directs the human heart.

Sick and down-hearted he started to pass his time with nonsense: reading rubbish, daydreaming and building castles in the air. Then, at other times he was more realistic and thought deeply about who and what inspired him. Slowly, he began to realise that when he followed the direction of his heart, his deepest desire, he felt happy and when he took the direction of his daydreams he was sad. Gradually, he came to understand that the signs God gives are in our hearts, our deepest desires—and when we follow them we find happiness and holiness: A fulfilment that just living on the surface of life and following the direction of the world cannot bring.

What did the crowd who followed Jesus want? What do we really want? Do we know our deepest desire? Is it really to win the lottery and be set for life? Or is it to be caught in the present moment, happy with what we have and grateful to God? St Ignatius knew the answer—and if we take time to see the signs and peel back the illusions of life, we too might understand.

A saintly follower of Ignatius said that what seizes us, our heart's desire, affects everything—it directs our days, it gets us out of bed in the morning; governs what we do and who we know: It fills us with gratitude and joy. The signs are there to what seizes you. They have brought us here, into God's presence, so that we might know them more clearly and follow him more nearly—and be happier, day by day.