

OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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| Sunday 4 th May | Holy Masses 9am & 11am |
| Monday 5 th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Tuesday 6 th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Wednesday 7 th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Thursday 8 th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Friday 9 th May | Holy Mass 12 noon |
| Saturday 10 th May | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm |

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

John Higgins, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, 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, Rosalyn Adams, Mary Hasting, Bernadette Simmons.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Pope Francis, Sandra O'Reilly, Paul Ryan, Patience Bush, Pat Gooddy, Marjorie Leigh, James Boyle, Judith Allerton, Kevin Butler.
Anniversaries: David Briggs, Daniel Straszewski, Margaret Noonan

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire.”

St Catherine of Siena

“The proper effect of the Eucharist is the transformation of man into God.”

St Thomas Aquinas

Hope

“Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love ... The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope.”

Pope Francis



Last Week’s collection was: £1007.67. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00



The Sacred Heart Chapel will be blocked off for renovation..



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the eternal happiness of Pope Francis.

Building Works

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding whilst the building work continues.

Magic Night

On Friday 9th May, the Parish Social Committee have arranged for a Magic Night to take place in the Hall at 7.30pm. Rick Taylor is a close-up magic specialist. He will go from table to table to do tricks—there will be supper, and the bar will be open. Please come along with friends, take over a table—enjoy company, a few drinks and prepare to be amazed. Tickets are £10 and are available from the presbytery or after the Masses this Sunday.

Parishes Tackling Poverty

The Diocese is planning to hold a workshop in the near future on how individual parishes might act to help with the problem of poverty in their local area. If you would like to attend this workshop or be involved with any future possibilities for our parish please let me know via email.

Cafod Talk: The Atrato River, Columbia

Learn more about how your donations make a difference. Join us to hear from our visiting Columbian partners, SIEMBRA, about their work supporting human rights and protecting the environment in the Atrato River region. **Tuesday May 13th, 7.30pm** at Our Lady of Dolours, 500 Bury New Rd, Salford M7 4ND. For more info and to register (for refreshment purposes) email: kkeenan@cafod.org.uk

Red Box News

£2,722 raised from this parish in 2024. Our parish raised £2,405 from Red Boxes plus another from direct contributions for APF-Mill Hill Missions during 2024. Sincere thanks are due to all direct contributors, Red Box holders and collectors who have donated their money and time so generously. Salford Diocese raised £157,905 during 2024 and the total from all parishes in England and Wales was £2.24 million. If you would like to help with the APF-Mill Hill Missions, please contact local secretary Richard Cavey on 0161 773 7684 or 07971 260330. The annual Missions Mass for APF-Mill Hill will be in Salford Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday 21st June with refreshments served afterwards. All Red Box holders, annual members and direct contributors are welcome.

Letters

If you gave to the parish in the financial year that ended on May 5th—either by envelope, standing-order or the Dona terminal please collect a letter from the table near the sacristy.

At That Time

Now that we are using the new Lectionary in Mass, have you noticed any difference in the language used? I certainly have and it's made me think Recently, and indeed in today's readings, the phrase 'at that time' is used. In the previous translation we would have heard "around that time" or "in those days", whereas now we have a much more emphatic statement.

At that time in Scripture signals moments of divine action, times when God steps into human history in a way that transforms lives. The Scriptures invite us to reflect on how God worked powerfully **at that time** in the lives of the early disciples, and how He still moves **at this time** in our own lives. In the first reading we hear of the Sanhedrin authorities trying to silence the apostles. Why? **At that time** the world expected fear, but instead, the apostles responded with faith and courage. The apostles understood that the Resurrection had changed everything and so the same men who had fled during Jesus' Passion were now rejoicing – even when they suffered for His name.

What about us? Are we bold in living out our faith? Do we stand firm in our beliefs, even when the world pressures us to compromise? Do we proclaim Christ with confidence, both in our words and actions? God acted decisively **at that time**, and He calls us to act boldly **at this time** – to be witnesses of the Risen Christ in our daily lives.

The Gospel takes us to another "**At that time**" moment. Peter and the disciples were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. After everything they had witnessed – the Crucifixion, the Resurrection – they still returned to what was familiar. Perhaps they were uncertain about their future, perhaps they were struggling with guilt? But Jesus does not leave them in doubt. He appears on the shore and fills their nets with abundance. Asking Peter three times "do you love me?" was not a conversation starter, it was a moment of healing. **At that time**, Peter had denied Jesus three times in fear. Now, Jesus gives him three opportunities to reaffirm his love. **At this time**, Jesus asks us the same question: "Do you love me?" He does not hold on to our failures, instead He invites us to follow Him anew.

The readings are not just historical events; they are reminders that God is still at work. Just as the apostles found courage, we must be bold in our faith. Just as Peter was restored, we must embrace God's mercy and move forward in love. Just as Jesus called His disciples, He still calls us today to serve, to witness and to live in His grace.

At that time, God revealed His glory. **At this time**, He is calling us to live as His disciples, Let's recognize His presence in our lives, and with renewed faith, respond to His invitation.