

Prayer Intentions for the Sick

Federico Angiolini, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Greg Calleja, 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: Shirley Higgins, Terence Brady, Maria Gibbs.

Anniversaries: Judith Ruddle and Brenda Monagle.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God’s own nature, bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member.”

Pope St Leo the Great

“Allow me, brothers and sisters, to look toward heaven rather than at the earth. So that my spirit may set on the right course for me to go on my journey to the Lord.”

St Martin of Tours



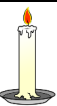
We seem to give them back to You O God, who gave them first to us. Yet, as You didn’t lose them in giving, so we don’t lose them by their return. Not as the world gives, do You give, O Lover of souls. What You give, You do not take away. For what is Yours is ours also, if we are Yours. Life is eternal and death is only an horizon and an horizon, only the limit of our sight.”



Last Week’s collection was: £1139.08 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Faithful Departed.



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



**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

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday 5th October	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 6th October	Holy Mass 12noon
Tuesday 7th October	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 8th November	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 9th November Dedication of the Lateran	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 10th November St Leo the Great	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 11th November St Martin of Tours	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

For Federico

A huge thank-you for such a marvellous response to the appeal for Federico Angiolini, our parishioner who is gravely ill and hopes to return to Italy. Last week's collection raised £1573-48, which means along with a donation of £250 from the SVP and a few last-minute donations, the parish will be able to give him £2000.00. Please pray for Federico and his family—miracles do happen but at the moment he is very, very sick.

Cafod Harvest Fast

The total amount raised so far is £943.40—if you still have an envelope please place it in the normal collection. If you'd like to make a donation and have no envelope you can place the donation in the box for Starving World, the contents of which go to Cafod this month.

Parish Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 6th Nov at 7pm.

Salford Diocesan Synod

If you missed the Big Listen invitation there are spare copies at the back.

Christmas Fair & Grand Draw

Christmas Draw tickets are available at the back of church. In each envelope there are two books of tickets and a flyer. If you could take some of these and deliver them to people who might buy them, we can also let them know about the Christmas Fair. The price of the tickets has increased to 50p—but you'll notice the prizes have also increased in value too!

Parish Works

You will have noticed works going on in the carpark near the boiler house. We, finally, seem near to sorting out a long-standing problem of flooding in the boiler-room to the church. Water has been leaking through the badly uneven concrete at the top of the steps, down a disused coal shoot and into the cellar. This was causing trouble with the boilers—damp and flooding. The concrete has been removed, the hole will be blocked and the area resurfaced.

The boiler is working but not at proper capacity because of a board effected by damp and a defective pipe. This is in the process of being restored. Once this has been done an area of the carpark will be resurfaced and the barrier recommissioned. Just now the barrier is out of use because the sensor has worn out.

Regulation fire doors are being fitted in the sacristy so there can be a safe exit in an emergency. The carpark lights were also recently mended.

Thanks for your patience and apologies for any inconvenience.

A Testimony of Hope

In the Year 2000, Pope John Paul II, chose a humble, former prisoner to preach the retreat to the Vatican. Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, had just been made Archbishop of Saigon when the Communists arrested him. He spent 13 years in prison, 9 in solitary confinement. He had nothing and was treated terribly. The Pope asked him to give a Testimony of Hope—to tell the church what he held on to in those dark days, that brought new life.

At this time of year, hope is on our minds isn't it? We are surrounded by death and the dark nights; the coming of winter and the end of the year turn our minds to the last things. What can we hope for?

In a way, Van Thuan's testimony gives a beautiful commentary on today's readings: on what we can hope for, if, like a mother, looking after her children, we hand over our whole lives to the living of the Gospel; if we practice the Gospel we preach, and cling to the belief that God is a father who loves everyone.

The Archbishop's words were based on those he wrote on cigarette papers and smuggled out to the flock from whom he was separated. He shared his experience of being in a tiny cell with no light or air—badly bullied and mistreated by guards. There, Van Thuan gradually came to the conclusion that he must put in to practice the Gospel he'd preached for so long: He began by saying, "I do not believe I know many things except Jesus Christ crucified—the one who loved his enemies and gave his life for them."

So Van Thuan set himself to love his guards—the men who were treating him terribly. He asked about their families and how they were. He promised to pray for them and their people who were sick. He told them about God and met their brutality with love. The Communists started to change the guards every 15 days because they were converting. Finally, because so many had accepted the Gospel, they gave him the same five.

Holding on to a belief in God as a loving Father and accepting everyone as his children, Van Thuan experienced the power of Christ's Gospel, the power of the Cross. Each day, he celebrated Mass in the palm of his hand with three drops of wine and tiny scraps of bread—these, he said, meant more than the Masses celebrated in his cathedral. They were closer to Calvary and full of the hope of new life that that place promises.

Our nights are not so dark but our hope is the same—if we accept God as our Father, embrace the cross of his Son, and practice what we preach.