



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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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, Joan Eastwood, William Lyons, Winnie Shelton.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Margaret McCann, Ann Mc Quillan, Delia Nilan.

Anniversaries: Reginald Hurst, David Hurst.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“You learn to speak by speaking, to run by running and to love by loving. To think you can have love by any other way is a deception.”
St Francis de Sales

“The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each of us receive God’s ultimate gift”.

St Thomas Aquinas



The Finger of God and our Dust

Christ preaches into the dust. He is not understood. The land is dry. It rejects the living water that He came to give. So He spells out the Gospel He came to proclaim:—He draws Himself down into the dirt and there he does not point the finger—perhaps just doodles His name—but with his gentleness and compassion writes the new law in people’s hearts.



Last Week’s collection was:
£1016.21 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1380.00



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



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp
burns for all at Our Lady of
Grace School.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 6th April

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 7th April

Holy Mass 12 noon

Tuesday 8th April

Holy Mass 12 noon

Wednesday 9th April

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 10th April

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 11th April

Holy Mass 8am
Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 12th April

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Reconciliation Service

A Lenten Service of Penance and Reconciliation will take place here on Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm. It's a golden opportunity for us to come together and seek peace and reconciliation from God and with each other. There will be a short service of the Word and four priests will be available for individual confession.

Easter Market

Over the weekend of Palm Sunday—12th and 13th April we will have a little market in the Parish Hall after the Masses. There will be lots of good things on sale—come along and stock up ready for the end of Lent! All the proceeds of the market will go to the redecoration fund.

Easter Baskets

There is a Polish tradition of blessing food to be eaten at Easter on Holy Saturday. Food is gathered in a basket and brought to the church to be blessed by the priest. This will happen here at 12 noon on Holy Saturday—please see the posters in the porch with details.

Big Lent Walk

My name is Kathryn Keenan, I'm a parishioner of OLOG and I'm doing the Big Lent Walk to support the work of CAFOD—I'm walking 200km during the 40 days of Lent. If any fellow parishioner would like to support me, my fundraising page can be accessed at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/kathryn-and-marleys-big-lent-walk>. Many thanks, Kathryn kkeenan@cafod.org.uk

Stations with the School

On Tuesday 15th April and Wednesday 16th April Year 4 children from Our Lady of Grace School will lead the Stations of the Cross in Church beginning at 9.30am.. You're very welcome to attend these Stations and to support the children.

Chrism Mass

This year, the Chrism Mass with the Bishop will take place at St Patrick's, Collyhurst on Wednesday 16th April at 11am. The parish has been allotted three tickets. If you would like a ticket to attend please let me know.

Come Holy Ghost, Creator, Come!

When we consider the Holy Spirit as Creator, we first of all think about how things came to be. It's been drummed in to us since we were children that the best place to start is the beginning. There was even a song about it, wasn't there? "When we read, we begin with ABC. When we sing, we start with doh, ray, me." Whenever people want to understand something clearly or find out the truth, their first tendency is to go back to the very beginning. The sense is that you start with first principles and then work forward, step by step, one thing after another.

But this isn't the only way of working, is it? And it's not necessarily the clearest or most creative. Turning to the end, beginning with the answer, starting at the finish and working back, is often the most enlightening way. They say that Agatha Christie always wrote her novels backwards. That she put her mysteries together from finish to start. And I'm sure you remember that moment in maths class when you got a better understanding by checking everything back from the answer—up from the bottom line.

In fact, starting at the finish, with the fulfilment of things, is the way of Christianity. It's the way of the Lord's Prayer, the way by which the Holy Spirit brings about a new creation, the way the Kingdom will come.

And that the Creator Spirit comes to us in this way - with the future as the absolute priority, changes us and everything, completely. It says, in one place, doesn't it, that we are already the children of God? It says that even now, our life is hidden with Christ in God. The summation has come already and everything has already been fulfilled. We are reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the bottom line from which the Spirit works back creatively.

What difference does this make? A big difference! St Paul tells us all about it in our second reading: Now we know what God has already done for us—we don't have to struggle forward, step by step, towards a righteousness of our own. We can simply receive from the future the grace God has already won for us in Christ. Because the prize has already been gained, the race is less of a struggle, full of grace. And another thing: the creative way in which the Spirit works removes all guilt, remorse and regret. The Spirit does not turn our eyes to the beginning but to the end: sets our eyes on heaven and takes us there.

Jesus spells this out to those who want to drag up the past and make the way ahead a struggle. He does a completely new thing. Through the future Spirit, Finger of God's right hand, he turns everything to the future and recreates the world: "Go, and sin no more."