



**OUR LADY OF GRACE
PARISH, PRESTWICH**

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Silvana Mantio, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: David Millward, Joe Evans, George Hewison, Rosemary Breakwell, Sandra Matchoss, Jimmy Dempsey.

Anniversaries: James Noonan, Reginald Hurst, David Hurst.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“The past does not belong to me; the future is not mine; with all my soul I try to make use of the present moment”
St. Maria Faustina Kowalska


“Christianity is not oppressive. It is peace, it is joy, it is love. It is life renewed like the secret pulse of nature at the beginning of spring.”
St John XXIII




Three O’Clock Prayer
“You expired Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! Jesus I trust in You. Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy of us and on the whole world.”

 Last Week’s collection was: £1855.40. Thank you

£££ The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1366.00

 This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for peace in the Holy Land.

 This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for every member of our parish.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 7th April	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 8th April Annunciation of the Lord	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 9th April	Requiem David Millward 12 noon
Wednesday 10th April	Requiem Joe Evans 12 noon
Thursday 11th April	Requiem George Hewison 12 noon
Friday 12th April	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 13th April	Holy Mass 11am Wedding McGenity—Lock 1.30pm Vigil Mass 5pm

Good Friday Collection

A big thank-you for your generosity on Good Friday. The collection for people suffering in the Holy land raised £803.90. I have transferred this money to the Sisters of Zion and they will ensure that it goes directly to those who are in need.

Divine Mercy Devotions

Today, at 3pm in the Parish Hall there will be Divine Mercy Devotions for any members of our parish who would like to participate. These will take place before the image blessed at the 11am Mass.

WiFi for the Hall

We are in the process of installing Wifi into the Parish Hall. You may have noticed a cable being taken at high level from the church. This is to facilitate Wifi in the hall which should enhance our facilities when renting but also make the use of card machines at the bar more proficient.

Gift Aid Envelopes

If you haven't already collected your Gift Aid Envelopes they will be delivered to your address. **If you are a tax payer and would like to be part of our Gift Aid scheme please have a word with me after Mass.** Being able to claim 25% of each donation back from the government makes a considerable difference to our revenue. The arrangements for doing this are very simple.

Easter Celebrations

Thank you to anyone and everyone who helped make our Easter celebrations at Our Lady of Grace so beautiful, right and fitting. I've been contacted by a number of people, both parishioners and visitors who have remarked on the quality of the celebrations and the beauty of the church. So we must be doing something right.

Filipino Choir

I'm pleased and grateful that the Filipino choir have agreed to sing at our Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass on the first Saturday of each month.

YCW Easter Refreshments

Thanks to members of the YCW who arranged for refreshments after our Easter morning Masses. It's great to see our young people getting more and more involved and it was good that they made this effort on Easter Sunday.

Synchronise your Watches

Maybe you remember the old war films? Often, there would be a scene of soldiers preparing for a mission. Located in strategic places, these men would be in contact with their Captain who, just before the command, would say: "Synchronise your watches". It was crucial to the success of the mission that events happened simultaneously.

Today's readings speak very clearly of something similar. The risen Jesus, our Captain, stands amongst his disciples and in that moment they enter the same hour of his Passion, the new day of Resurrection. The Gospel tells us pointedly; that it was the evening of the same day, the first day of the week, when Jesus appeared. He stands among them on the day of Resurrection and invites them into the hour of his victory:—Just then, he shows them his hands and his feet and communicates his peace. "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you—those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven." In other words, he is asking them to synchronise with Him—to enter that glorious hour in which his wounded body took on a glorious new life.

Jesus asks us to synchronise ourselves with the time of the Resurrection today, so that we might engage in the mission of spreading his new life in the world. On this Sunday—that is both the Octave of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday, the Church asks us to consider two things.

First—the Octave—the eighth day. What is this? Well, on the seventh day of creation God took His rest—a sabbath from all the work he had been doing. The early Christians then spoke of Jesus rising from that sabbath rest to complete a new creation through his Resurrection: This, they referred to as the Eighth Day—not a chronological continuation but a marvellous and mysterious remastering of time and place through his rising from the dead. This is the day that the Lord has made—a day of light, refreshment and peace. You might have noticed that our font is octagonal:—Its eight sides represent the life of the new day, to which our Captain synchronises us in Baptism and gives us the mission of spreading the new life of this hour.

Central to the Divine Mercy devotion, is the Three O'clock Prayer. For the Gospel of John the hour of Christ's death is also the hour of his new life for the Church. As he expired on the Cross, he breathed out the Spirit of new life as the water of Baptism and Blood of the Eucharist, simultaneously flowed from his side. This was the hour—the hour that began the new day: The hour of divine mercy in which we gained forgiveness and new life.

On this octave day of Divine Mercy, each of us, through Baptism and the Eucharist, is invited by the Risen Lord to step into a new dimension; to attune our lives to the forgiveness and peace that he won for us in that hour. Synchronise your watches—the mission is beginning!