

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Ann Berry, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Florence Ward, Barbara Murphy, Della McKernan, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, William Lyons, Beth Anistead-Cargan, Sue Zimny, Tom Cutler, Rosemary Keyes, Anne Holland, Caroline Hoad, Kevin McCormick, Ellen Sumaya and Sean Galvin.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Joan Burke, Carol Doherty, Chris Tracey.

Anniversaries: Frank Carey, William and Stella Garside, Ted Locker, Lionel and Emily Slater, Cyril and Padmini Saverimuttu, Alan and Betty Braithwate.


WISDOM OF THE SAINTS



The Immaculate Conception

When we think of beauty, we think of something having light and colour and form of perfect proportions. It does not matter whether the word "beauty" means to us a mountain, or a flower, or a person, or even a beautiful melody; perfection must be in it ... Mary's soul is the most beautiful thing in God's creation. It was shaped and designed as the masterpiece of the One who planned the sunsets, placed the mountains, bounded the seas, and jewelled the skies. All the beauty, all the grace that a creature is capable of possessing are hers ... and she freely gives the grace that she has in its fullness to make us beautiful too.

TUESDAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO MASS HERE ON TUESDAY

	Last Week's collection was: £1005.75 Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
--	---	------------	---

	This week the Sacred Heart Lamp will burn for those who are sick.		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for the staff and children of St Monica's School.
--	---	---	--

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 7TH DECEMBER 2025



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 7th December	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 8th December Immaculate Conception	Holy Mass 9.30am Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 9th December	NO MASS
Wednesday 10th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 11th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 13th December St Lucy	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Christmas Fair

Thank you to all who made last week's Christmas Fair such a success. In the Parish Hall we took £1,805.40 and in the Cottage £1478.30—giving a total of £3,283.70 for the Fair as a whole. At the time of printing—and after prizes had been deducted—the Christmas Draw has raised £2,293.00. This gives a grand total of £5,576.70 for the Fair and Draw. Thank you for all your generosity and support. A list of winners for the Christmas Draw and 200 Club prizes will be posted on the noticeboard.

SVP

Each year in Advent we have had a collection for the Caritas Christmas Dinner. This year we are going to hold that collection for our own newly-developing Society of St Vincent de Paul. In the new year and with the help of new members they are hoping to increase their work with a special emphasis on the needy and underprivileged in our area. An injection of funds would help this work get on the way. On the Third Sunday of Advent, 14th December there will be a second collection for the SVP.

Carol Concert

On Wednesday 10th December at 6.30pm a Carol Service will take place in Church led by St Monica's High School and involving Our Lady of Grace Primary School. This Service is **Ticket Only**. I'm very grateful to St Monica's for all the hard work they have put into this evening and wish them every blessing on the night. They will hold a collection for Caritas.

Safeguarding

Salford Diocese is currently undertaking a safeguarding audit of parishes. In our own parish we have many volunteers in roles that require a DBS check. This is up to date and we will soon be undertaking DBS checks for new SVP members. We will then have to register with the Diocese other volunteers who do not require a DBS check. Once again, the Safeguarding team are grateful for your cooperation and support.

Christmas Brochures

Christmas brochures will be available for visitors at the various Concerts happening this week. They have also been distributed through OLOG School. If parishioners could each take a few to post through neighbours' doors I would be grateful. The First Mass of Christmas will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and at Midnight, then 9am and 11am on Christmas Day.

Doctor's Orders

They say that the Roman Emperor, Julian, called the Apostate, renounced Jesus Christ and desired to go back to the old pagan gods - feeling that the world had lost all its colour and vitality as a result of Christianity. Famously, Swinburne would have him say: "Thou hast conquered O pale Galilean and the world has grown grey with thy breath." Since Christianity had conquered ancient society, life seemed dull and insipid to Julian.

And what about us? Are we tempted to agree with Julian? Can faith not seem to take the colour out of life? If we were to sit down and to take a few minutes to think and to pray about what makes life worth living, what is important to us, and makes all the difference—what diagnosis would we give? Isn't just the opposite of what Julian felt actually true? That a sickly, pale, society finds colour, health and happiness in the Gospel? Isn't that the truth of this time of year - that a cold, dark and dead world finds warmth and light and life in Christmas?

Have you ever met a doctor who you trusted completely? Someone who just had it: that rare combination of personality and presence - the knowledge, purpose and skill - that makes you feel confident in their judgement and safe in the doctor's hands?

It's such a doctor that Isaiah describes: one who shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear. It's such a doctor that Matthew sees in John the Baptist. More importantly, it's what the people see in him and why they flock to John for Baptism. John didn't wear a purple robe – he had turned away from the pomp of the city. He wore rough clothes, ate simple food, and preached repentance – Julian the Apostate would have thought him a killjoy and a bore, yet his message conquered the hearts of the people and brought them to life and to Jesus. Why?

John gives a diagnosis of the health of the people, a diagnosis of society – In himself—in his own life—he shows how life can be – he lives out now the promise of mercy that God gave to the Patriarchs: the promise of freedom and life that Jesus gives in the Gospel: the promise that Heaven is at hand—can come and be done here and now.

John's diagnosis raises some questions for us at this time of year: questions about what is attractive to us, who we trust, what brings us life and gives us peace. And when we have set our heart on these things, there is the question of whether our life is any way different—from the pale, insipid life of those completely caught up in this world and what it offers.

The Galilean is supposed to have conquered us in Baptism – does His Breath bring life and colour to our world?