

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Blanche Pollard.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Vera Humphreys, Robert Fenton, Rita Galloway, Stephen Brefeny, Mary Hughes.

Anniversaries: Ted Locker, Peggy McGloin, William and Stella Garside, Frank Carey, Anne Johnson

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“In giving us his Son, his only Word, God spoke everything to us at once. God has nothing else to say”

St John of the Cross

“Listen and understand ... Am I not here, I, who am your Mother. Are you not under my mantle. Am I not your health?”

Our Lady of Guadalupe



ADVENT

Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope.

 Last Week's collection was: £1009.90 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 those who are sick.



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL
PLACEMENT SEMINARIAN MARK MCGEEHAN
11, Fairfax Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 1AS
Tel: 0161 773 2324

Website: ourladyofgrace.co.uk
Email: philip.caldwell@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
mark.mcgeehan@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 8th December	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 9th December Immaculate Conception	School mass 9.30am Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 10th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 11th December	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 13th December St Lucy	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 14th December St John of the Cross	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Parish Christmas Fair

Again, thank-you to all who helped to make the Parish Christmas Fair such a success. At the Christmas Fair we took £4004.33—after deducting costs we made a total £3,500.50. So far we have made £2,340.00 on the Grand Christmas Draw. Hopefully, after Saturday we'll have tipped £6,000.00.

Choir Concerts and Draws

On Saturday 7th December, the Manchester Gospel Choir will perform in Church at 7.30. Afterwards, refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall and the Bar will be open. The 200 Club for November and December will be drawn as well as the 200 Club Winter Bonus. Then there will be the draw for the Grand Christmas Raffle 2024. Good luck!

CAFOD School Volunteers Needed

Could you visit local Catholic schools to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers in the Salford Diocese to deliver assemblies and workshops to inspire children and young people to make a difference and take action. The role is very flexible and training is given. For a chat, please contact Anna Letizia, on 07710094449 or aletizia@cafod.org.uk

Synod News

Parish meetings, to explore both the 3rd and 4th themes, will be held this week on Tuesday 10th Dec at 7pm and Thursday 12th Dec at 2pm both in the Cottage and on Friday 13th Dec at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone – whether or not you attended a Big Listen meeting in January or a meeting to explore Themes 1 & 2 last month - is welcome to come to one of these meetings. It would be helpful if you could let us know which – ring Vin Allerton on 0161=773 3318 or Eddie Welch on 0161-798 0309.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday December 9th at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Finance and Properties Committees

It would be helpful if any members of the Finance and Property Committees who are free could meet on Thursday 12th December at 7.30pm. Once we have discussed some matters we will be able to give feedback to the parish on progress with the buildings work.

Wait for the Lord

Fr Vanstone, an Anglican priest who once ministered in Bolton, wrote a lovely book called *The Stature of Waiting*. He believed that we see the full stature of Christ – his true glory - not in his wonderful words or his marvellous miracles but only in his waiting: His humble patience before Pilate, his hidden waiting at Bethlehem and Nazareth, his silent waiting on the Cross and in the tomb. That, says Vanstone, is when we see the true dignity and power of our Saviour - when he waits on God's work.

We don't like waiting, do we? It seems like a useless waste of time. John the Baptist can't wait - even in the womb he leapt for joy. But John learns later - when he's waiting in prison, we start to see the full stature of his faith. Then he waits and wonders: "Are you the one who is to come - or must we expect another?" He waits, Mary waits, and we all have to learn to wait if ever we are to come to full stature in Christ. We must wait for God to act in the space we've made for him in our hearts.

So perhaps, today, I could share the story of two other people who learnt to wait in hope. One in a prison in Berlin and one in a prison in Saigon.

When Cardinal Francis Van Thuan was arrested by the Communists on 15th August 1975, he remembered the words of a friend of his who had been imprisoned for 12 years: "I have spent half my life waiting, it is true. All prisoners, myself included constantly wait to be let go." Van Thuan decided that he would not wait in this way – simply resigned – but that while waiting he would live the present moment to the full and fill it with love. His would be an active waiting – "a straight line," he said "consists of millions of little points. The road to Hope is paved with small acts of hope along the way." Van Thuan gives a deep insight into the Baptist's retelling of the words of Baruch: Make his paths straight. The valleys must be filled up to make level ground so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

Alfred Delp a young German Jesuit was imprisoned by the Nazis just before the end of the war. While waiting to die, he lit an Advent wreath in his cell and he wrote a message to his parishioners: "Let us trust life because this night must lead to light. Let us trust life because we do not have to live it alone, God lives it with us." When we live the present moment with attention—and wait on God's presence—we become conscious of God-with-us. We become aware of a straight road between us that rises up for us to meet. Even in the dark exile of this world we experience God's closeness and are filled with the joy of expectation.

What will you do? Not while you are waiting but with your waiting? Live it like useless, lost time or live the present moment to the full and fill it with love?