

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.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Sean Galvin, Kath Kelly.

Anniversaries: Kate Heneghan, Brian Makin, Gordon Doodson, John Cullen.

WISDOM OF THE SAINTS

“Look after your body as if you were going to live for ever. Look after your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.”

St Augustine of Hippo



“It is my soul enlightened by grace which knows that God does not want me to be held down or kept back but to be free.”

St Catherine of Genoa

“I don’t know how you grew in my womb, nor did I grant the breath of life to you or arrange what makes you who you are. For this reason, the Creator of the world—Who brought about the beginning of humanity and searched out the origin of all things—will again mercifully give you both spirit and life.”

2 Maccabees 7:21-23

	Last week's collection was £980.80	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
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	This week the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the sick of our parish.		This week, Our Lady's Lamp burns for the new headteacher of Our Lady of Grace School.
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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 8TH FEBRUARY 2026



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 8th February	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 9th February	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 10th February St Scholastica	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes	NO MASS
Thursday 12th February	NO MASS
Friday 13th February	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 14th February Ss Cyril and Methodius	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

This Week

This week there is an all-day meeting of all the priests of the diocese. Part of the diocesan synod process, the meeting is a feed-back session in which the opinions and reactions of priests, that have been collated over the last few months, will be communicated to the Bishop. It has not been possible for me to find cover for midday Mass here while this event takes place. I will be away meeting the Rector of Allen Hall about my new role so on Wednesday and Thursday this coming week there will be no midday Mass.

OLOG Headteacher Interviews

On Friday 13th February the interviews for the appointment of a new headteacher at Our lady of Grace Primary School will take place at the presbytery. We ask for God's blessing on this process and that the right person will be appointed to take our school forward. Please be aware that this will be happening at the house on Friday and please pray for all those involved especially the governors who will be responsible for the new appointment. Fr Connolly will celebrate the parish Mass on Friday.

Fr Gerard and the Future

Fr Gerard's surgery was successful. The doctors are pleased with his progress and he is convalescing. The Bishop has asked Fr Benjamin to help in the parish at the time of hand-over until the new parish priest is fit and ready to take up his appointment.

SVP and CAFOD

The wall collection boxes at the back of the church which used to be designated for St Anthony's Bread and Starving World have been rebranded as SVP and CAFOD. In future all the monies donated here will be given to these two charities.

LEPRA

You will remember that the offerings made at the crib this year were collected for Lepra. £658.00 was donated to help those still suffering from leprosy in our world. This amount will be forwarded to Lepra on your behalf.

Cottage

Last week damage to the electrical supply to the boiler meant that the cottage had to be temporarily closed. An electrical safety check has been requested and we hope service will return to normal as soon as possible.

Salt and Our Soul

There is a part of each one of us that our parents didn't produce. We might have the look of one of our folks and the temperament of the other; the eyes and humour of our mother and the physical build and resilience of our father. We may notice a turn of phrase of one of our parents in our speech and that we have the posture and gait of the other. We might be just like our parents in many ways - but in fact we're neither of them and nor are we simply a mixture; just a bit of both. We're, each of us, "just me". Isn't that a wonderful thought? That we are all of us unique, a one-off?!

And how come? If there is a part of us our parents didn't produce - who did? It's our faith that tells us how: That whatever of our physical nature, there is a part of each of us that gives life to our body in a singular, unrepeatable way. We believe God made this part of us, that it's God's gift to us and we call it our soul:- the undying part of us that even as our body changes, always stays the same. For better and for worse, we each experience this reality of faith in every minute of every day. It's something we can't escape. That we're present to ourselves in every moment and to such a degree that it's impossible to imagine not being - and not being me.

When my nephew was small his hamster died. He kept on asking where Hammy had gone. He was dissatisfied with the answers he got. "Ask your uncle Philip, he knows about these things," my sister-in-law finally said in exasperation. Tearfully, Joe asked me where Hammy was now. "Did you bury him?" I said. The five year old looked at me with pity and disappointment. "I know Hammy's body is in the garden but what about his thinking part?!"

Is there anything that lasts - and no matter how much we use it doesn't wear out? If there is, then salt is maybe one of the best examples. Jesus speaks of lots of things that do wear out and come to an end: the cloth that shrinks and tears after many washes, clothes and money that are eaten up. He speaks of old wineskins that are destroyed and words that pass away, buildings that fall, flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow - even of our bodies as perishing. But of salt Jesus only asks a question - wondering if it can be lost and what happens to its saltiness?

It can't be lost in fact - no matter how much we use it, salt and its saltiness is impossible to lose. To give taste to food, as an antiseptic, to get traction on the road; to melt, dry or preserve: in all its uses it's indestructible and doesn't change. It might be temporarily diluted but salt is one of the most stable compounds there is. Jesus knew this and it's why, along with light, he compares it to the life-principle of his kingdom: the everlasting kingdom which is in us, and is the life of our soul.