

**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



**Prayer Intentions for the Sick**

Gwen Wade, Craig Millward, Anne Holland, David Millward, David Noble, Clare Levy, Christine Rogers, Roxine Calow, Patrick Hulinson, Greg Calleja, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Shirley Higgins, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Henry Marron.

**Prayer Intentions for the Dead**

**Recently Deceased:** Lucy Tyler, Stella Green, Brendan Loftus, Frank Worrall, Sheila Munnelly and Moira Reid.

**Anniversaries:** Michael Haworth, Anthony Walsh, Clive Lamb and Owen Gallagher.

**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS**


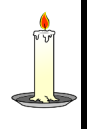
“To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often.”  
St John Henry Newman

“I shall not die but shall live. Departing the land of the dying I hope to see the good things of the Lord.”  
St Edward the Confessor



“In the month of October, the faithful weave a special garland of prayer with Mary. It’s the same garland that she wove during that precious, three-month visit of her cousin, Elizabeth: made from the ties of blood, affection and love that tie our own families. It is shaped around the same worries and is pregnant with the same hope.” Pope St John XXIII

	Last Week’s collection was £965.42 Thank you	<b>£££</b>	The monthly figure for Standing Orders:£1366.00
--	--	------------	---

	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the Synod in Rome.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for the children who are beginning this year’s sacramental programme.
--	---	---	--

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>Sunday 8th October</b>	<b>Holy Masses 9am &amp; 11am</b>
<b>Monday 9th October</b> <b>St John Henry Newman</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12noon</b>
<b>Tuesday 10th October</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday 11th October</b> <b>Pope St John XXIII</b>	<b>Holy Mass 10am</b>
<b>Thursday 12th October</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 13th October</b> <b>St Edward the Confessor</b>	<b>Holy Mass 12 noon</b>
<b>Saturday 14th October</b>	<b>Exposition 11.30am-1pm</b> <b>Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 6-6.40pm</b> <b>Holy Mass 11am Vigil 7pm</b>

## Cafod Harvest Fast Day

Cafod Harvest Fast Day was on Friday 6th October. Please place your envelope in this week's collection.

### Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 9th October at 7pm.

### Knitting and Crochet Club

The Group will meet in the Hall on Wednesday 11th October after Mass.

### Mass for the Sick and Housebound

On Sunday 15th Oct the SVP will organise the annual Mass for the Sick and Housebound at the 11am and a Reception will follow in the Hall. If you are aware of anyone who would like to attend this Mass please let me know. I would like to extend this invitation to those elderly parishioners who are just managing to come to Mass. Please let me know if you would like to come to the Mass and buffet and meet up with those who can't get here.

### Synod

Pope Francis is about to open the XVI General Assembly of Bishops in Rome—a Synod about synodality: that is, about how we walk together and listen to each other on our Christian journey as God's People, the Church. We have been invited to pray for this meeting and for the Holy Spirit's help.

In our own Diocese of Salford, Bishop John has decided to open a similar, parallel synod—so that, at a local level, we may begin a process of coming together and listening to each other. A small parish group has been involved in this process for some time and two delegates have been commissioned to take part in the Diocesan Synod. In the next few weeks, we will get to know more about how this process can be opened up in our own parish and about how we might pray for and participate in the Salford Synod.

### Book Club

**Book Club.** The next meeting of the group will be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm in the Cottage.** We will be discussing poetry on the theme "Childhood". Please bring (if you can) 12 copies of a poem on the theme, or recalling your own childhood.

### Christmas Fair

Apologies for mentioning Christmas so soon but for the parish fair to be a success we'll need to be organised! If you could lend a hand—whether you're an old hand or a brand new one—please come along to a meeting in the Parish Hall on **Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm.**

## A Space in the Garden

There's not a lot to do in the garden now the winter is approaching. Those that know, say there are three main jobs: making a space by cleaning up the garden of leaves and dead things, protecting shrubs from frost, and planting spring bulbs. And it's just at this time, that we hear of the Lord's work in his vineyard, preparing everything, carefully, for the new growth of the spring: fencing, digging, clearing stones, making space and planting.

Maybe you knew someone who had a copy of *The Garden of the Soul*? At one time, there would have been one in nearly every household: A devotional book of prayers, written by the eighteenth-century, English, bishop, Richard Challoner. And what people are advised to do in their gardens in October, is very similar to the devotion he encouraged. He said that every Christian, in order to reach life everlasting, must work on three things in the garden of their soul.

In faith, it's necessary to make a space for God: to clear out what's dead, unimportant and doesn't matter and to make a space where the soul can encounter God and worship him. It's helpful to think of that like the leaves being swept from the garden, the spent shrubs being trimmed back and the beds prepared: To consider, at this time, whether we make a space in our souls like we do in our garden.

In hope, it's necessary to protect this space from all that threatens it. Like the frosts that nip new life, weeds and other things, that if we're not careful overtake the garden. In hope we must protect our soul with prayer.

And in charity, we need to plant the garden with good works—like the bulbs we plant in the cleared spaces—looking forward to all the colour and new life of spring. It's not an empty space we want—but a space of goodness and love.

This week, I came across a lovely quotation from St Francis de Sales, someone who Challoner emulated in *The Garden of the Soul*: "Holiness is found in a path opened to us in our daily lives" - a space which faith opens up and which full of hope, we can plant with goodness. It's great to imagine the Lord Jesus, labouring with us, kneeling at our side, working as he did in the vineyard: Helping us to clear a space—in our souls so as to fill it with all that St Paul mentions to the Philippians: "everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, everything that is virtuous and worthy of praise."

Inspired by God's word, now is a good time to do a bit in the garden!