

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, David Noble, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Eileen Butt, Carol Doherty, Frank Colgan, Marian Whyte, Stephen King, Dan McCormack, Joan Eastwood.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Craig Millward, Clark Davidson, Michael Burt, Sarah McEvans, Maureen Halton, Wendy Madigan, Hughie Brown, Patricia Starkey, Patrick Thorpe.
Anniversaries: Bernard McGarreghy, Eric Taylor, John Bagshawe, Maureen Doyle, Katherine Allen, John Barnes, Brian Makin, Gordon Doodson, James McGeever.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces, never be afraid to pick up one piece and start again. That’s the beauty of being alive.”
 St Bernadette

“The beginning of every good action has its foundation in our will but its completion is from God.”
 St Methodius



Speaking of the British legal system in his essay *The Twelve Men*, G. K. Chesterton said: “Whenever our civilization wants a library to be catalogued, or a solar system discovered or any other trifle of this kind, it uses up its specialists. But when it wishes anything done that is really serious, it collects twelve of the ordinary people standing around. The same thing was done, if I remember right, by the founder of Christianity.

	Last Week’s collection was: £1097.97 Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1380.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for a Special Intention.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for all those who are sick.
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OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 9th February	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 10th February St Scholastica	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 12th February	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 13th February	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 14th February Ss Cyril and Methodius	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 15th February	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Radcliffe Male Voice Choir

Tickets are available for an evening concert with the Radcliffe Male Voice Choir. On Friday 21st February they will perform in the Hall and the bar will be open. Tickets are £5 each and there will be a raffle and bar on the night. All proceeds are for the redecoration of the church.

Book Club

The next meeting of the group will be held on Monday 10th February at 2pm in the Cottage. We will be discussing "Antarctica" by Claire Keegan, an interesting volume of short stories by an Irish writer, published in 2019. New members will be very welcome. For further information, contact Vin Allerton by phone 0161-773 3318, text 07305 727900

Car Parking

Over the coming weeks and months, carparking is going to become more difficult in the vicinity of the church. Work will commence on the adjacent council site and people will be looking to park elsewhere. This will be made worse by the fact that a number of bays in our carpark, adjacent to the dividing wall, will be out of action due to scaffolding. At Mass times, the carpark is for parishioners and otherwise for hall users. We may have to look at ways of restricting entry—especially when contractors arrive to work on our own buildings after Easter.

A Date for Your Diary

The Social Committee has arranged for New Silver Dollar to perform at a St Patrick's Night Celebration in the Hall on Sunday 16th March at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 will be at a premium as space for dancing will mean we will need to restrict numbers to 100. Entrance will be by ticket only.

Church Building Works

Recently, I met with Dominic Roberts, the architect from Roberts and Stone and with Adrian Walker the contractor from Walker Conservation Ltd. This was to discuss the scheduling for the works on the church roof and side door. These works will begin straight after Easter and should last for a period of around twenty weeks. During this time the roof over the aisle on the sacristy side of the church will be renewed as well as the lantern roof above the Sacred Heart chapel. A new entrance porch will also be fashioned near the present side door. Plans will be displayed shortly.

The One That Got Away

Sometimes, when we were little we'd say, "Dad, where's Mum?" Of course, we wanted something - to know if our football kit was ready, if we could have our pocket money, she knew where our school tie was, or whether she'd help us with our homework. If you wanted anything useful doing, you generally asked, "Dad, where's Mum?" And he would often say, "She's run off with Roger!" Roger, we knew, was the one that got away! He was her childhood sweetheart, who we'd been told many times was now a very successful jeweller who had a number of shops. I remember, just once or twice, thinking whether as she got the umpteenth kit ready, ironed a uniform, or put up the pack lunches, Mum ever wondered about Roger, the one that got away.

Today's readings are all about the catch, though, aren't they? The good news that Christianity adamantly refuses thought of a one that got away - that's just fantasy and Jesus only deals with reality. I mean, Peter does his best to be the one that got away ... from start to finish it's as if he wants to slip the net: 'Depart from me. Lord. I'm a sinful man'. It would have been a great story for the grandchildren, wouldn't it?... How he might have been the first Pope but decided to stay fishing. But Jesus adamantly refuses letting Peter be the one that got away. "I'll make you fishers of men".

Then, Peter tries to resist any change with the he knows better argument - he knows these waters and he's worked all night. Jesus takes no refusal until he pays out the nets. And then, of course, there's the denials when things get tough. 'I do not know the man!' And if that weren't enough, there's Peter's resistance of forgiveness and to start again - his decision, after the death of Jesus, to get away back to his fishing and an ordinary life. And this last attempt to be the one that got away, Jesus faces with an unavoidable simple fact: "Simon Peter, do *you* love me more than these others do?" There's just no scope with Jesus to be the one that got away.

And aren't there shades of Peter in all of us? We'd rather say we're too bad and not good enough for the Gospel. We'd rather say it might have been, if we hadn't been here and done this. We'd rather say we know better than the Son of God and not risk putting out into the deep. We prefer to deny him and refuse forgiveness than accept the truth of a very simple fact: He loves us and is never going to let us be the one that got away.

So many people wonder why Jesus chose simple fishermen to be his disciples - maybe the reason is as simple as they are. They know all about the truth of the catch and ultimately the nonsense of the story of the one that got away!