

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, 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, Brenda Neiles, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Seamus O'Hanlon, Mary Jane Cruz.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: John Conneally, Roxine Calow, John Cunningham, Ruari Fagan, Theresa Brennan, Margaret Cairney, Joseph Arnfield, James Atherton.

Anniversaries: Vincent Caldwell, Irene Caswell, Gwen Wade, Jim Arnold, Arthur Porterfield, Arabella Doherty.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“To know much and taste nothing—of what use is that? The object is not just to know but to experience the Supreme Good: God.”
St Bonaventure

“Carmel is the mountain of shrubbery and flowers. With full hands, the children of Carmel strew those flowers over the earth.”
St Titus Brandsma





“Prayer ought to be humble, fervent, resigned, persevering and accompanied by great reverence. One should consider that we stand in the presence of God and speak with a Lord before whom the angels tremble.
For this reason, Almighty Father, I place the Precious Blood of Jesus before my lips when I pray, that my prayers might be purified before they ascend to the altar of God.
Every time a creature offers up the Blood by which they were redeemed, they offer a gift of infinite worth that can be equalled by no other.”
St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

 Last Week's collection was:
£1022.26 Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for
Standing Orders: £1373.00

 This week, the Sacred
Heart Lamp burns for a
Special Intention.

 This week, Our Lady's Lamp
burns for safe and fruitful break
for all our school children.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—14TH JULY 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

PARISH PRIEST Fr. PHILIP CALDWELL

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 14th July

Holy Masses 9am & 11am

Monday 15th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

St Bonaventure

Tuesday 16th July

Requiem Roxine Calow
12 noon

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Wednesday 17th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

Thursday 18th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

Friday 19th July

Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 20th July

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm
Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Premises Update

The works needed on the roof, side entrance and emergency lighting have gone out to tender. When the Premises and Finance Committees have decided on a contractor and we get the go-ahead from the Diocese, we will share details of the scope of works with you. This week a Bat Survey was completed and I'm pleased to say none were discovered!

The contractor overseeing the redevelopment of Prestwich centre and seeking to build the three-storey carpark next door to us has made contact with the Diocese in order to set out their plans and begin negotiations. I'll keep you informed of any developments.

Establishing wifi in the Parish Hall has proved more involved than we thought but this should be completed in the next few days.

Baptism Meeting

The next meeting for all those who would like to have their child baptised at Our Lady of Grace will be in the Hall on Wednesday 4th Sept 2024 at 7.30pm. **There will be no meeting in the month of August.**

Parish 200 Club

I'm pleased to report that there seems to be enough interest for us to launch a Parish 200 Club at Our Lady of Grace. Over the next few weeks I'll look in to sorting out how this will work and hope to begin in the month of September. Thanks to everyone who expressed an interest.

School Leavers' Mass

This OLOG celebration will take place on Thursday 19th July at 9.30am.

Italian Procession

The Italian Community's procession of the Madonna was a great success last Sunday. The weather held out and it was lovely to see such a number of our First Communicants in attendance. Thanks to everyone who made the trip from our parish possible.

Social Events

The Social Committee met this week to collate and prioritise your suggestions for future events. Once we have booked some of these we will publish a programme, beginning in September. Thanks for your suggestions and for your support going forward.

Nothing Except a Staff

Why only a staff? I've often wondered this. Why, when Jesus sends out the Twelve on their journey, does he instruct them not to take any food, extra clothing, possessions or money—only a staff.

I'd have to say, when all my elderly relatives and friends have come to the point of needing a walking aid, they've fought it tooth and nail. My auntie Hilda only used her Zimmer frame to dry her washing, my dad used to hide his stick under the bed, and uncle Arthur wouldn't be seen dead with the expensive walking cane we got for him! I suppose that speaks volumes about the instruction of the Lord Jesus, doesn't it?

It's all about vulnerability, the staff—and we avoid vulnerability like the plague. Last week, we listened to those wonderful words from St Paul: “I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast ... for when I am weak then I am strong.” We listen, but do we really hear?

Today, Jesus reiterates to the founders of our faith, and to us, that weakness and vulnerability are key to the Christian's journey through life. There is no security in possessions, money, clothing or food. Our only security is the constant reminder that we are dependent on each other and on God - for everything. The only way to go is the way of weakness ... then we will be strong.

Jesus tells us in another place that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. And in his way of vulnerability—if we'll risk it—we'll find all three: the truth about ourselves, a way forward, and God's life in us.

It's for this reason that he sends his people out in twos. A popular reading at marriages, these days, is from the Wisdom of Qoheleth: “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

And that truth—is the truth that Jesus gives to the Twelve: the secret of the foundation of the Church, the way that we make the Body of Christ in the world. Through our vulnerability to each other, our reliance on our brothers and sisters and on God—we are drawn together to make present the poor, vulnerable face of Christ and to show where strength of true life lies.

So by way of our vulnerability, the Church becomes that body against which the gates of the underworld cannot prevail. When we accept the truth about ourselves and rely on each other and on God—we have authority over the unclean spirits that bring division and lies. Then, we find a way that brings peace on the house of the Church and on our houses: a way that brings life. That's why, for our journey, we need nothing except a staff.