

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, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron, Johnny Falloon, Carol Doherty, Seamus O’Hanlon, Mary Jane Cruz.

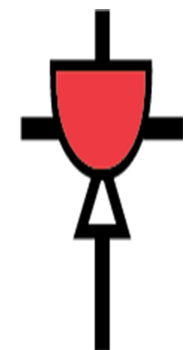
PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Roxine Calow, John Conneally, Christopher “Dominic” Harte, John Connely, Kazimierz Maciejewski, Steve Dooley, Paul Marsden, Josie Dawson, Josephine Ann Watson.
Anniversaries: John Ryan, Mary and Norman Dale, Nellie and Paddy Heneghan, Joseph Killackey, Arthur Caswell, Sarah O’Dwyer, Fr. Anthony Lawton, Isabelle McDonald.


WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS



“For the sake of silence we are to abstain even from good talk. If this be so, how much more needful that we refrain from idle gossip.”
 St Benedict

“Faith is like a little seed. Plant it in your heart. God gives the harvest at the appointed time.”
 St Augustine Zhao Rong



“Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me. I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to save and set me free. I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me. Loving Father, touch me with your healing hands, for I believe that it is your will for me to be well in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Cast out anything that should not be in me. Root out unhealthy and abnormal cells. Let the fire of your love pass through my entire body to heal and make new.”
 St Pio of Pietrelcina

	Last Week’s collection was: £1083.73 Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for Mary Jane Cruz.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for a Special Intention.
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OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Sunday 7th July	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 8th July	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 9th July	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 10th July	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 11th July St Benedict, Abbot	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 12th July	Requiem Dominic Harte 12 noon
Saturday 13th July	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Mission Appeal

Thanks for your very generous contribution to Fr Joel's Mission Appeal for poor children in Ghana. He raised £1,200.75.

Thanks, also to Fr Joel for celebrating the Masses here last weekend. We wish him a safe journey home and a happy holiday and promise to keep him and his missionary project in our prayers.

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.

Book Club

Book Club. The next meeting of the group will be held on **Monday 8th July at 2pm in the Cottage.** We will be sharing and discussing "Humorous Poetry". Please bring (if you can) 12 copies of any poem that you find funny/droll/amusing/comical/witty. New members welcome. For further information, contact Vin Allerton by phone (0161-773 3318), text (07305 727900) or email vinallerton@gmail.com

Italian Procession

If you would like to go to the procession of the Madonna around the streets of Manchester **today, Sunday**— A coach will leave from outside the church at around 12.30pm and return for 4.30pm. All welcome.

Social Events

Thanks for indicating your preferences for some coming social events. After this weekend, I'll take down the sheets from the noticeboard and at our next meeting the social committee will reflect on them and any other suggestions that you've made.

Shortly, we will open the Church Redecoration Fund and let you know of any projects and events to help with raising money to decorate the church.

Prophet, Priest and King

Did you know that you're a prophet? That you have a prophet's gifts? Perhaps you didn't realise? Well, every week - at least once - and many other times I'm sure, you use your gift and act:- stand up and in front of everyone make a prophetic statement so that all can hear! Yes, every week, the words of today's first reading come true in you: "The spirit came into me and made me stand up . I heard the Lord speaking.. The Lord says this"

Each week, after the Lord speaks to us in the readings, we stand and say: "I believe!" That's a profoundly prophetic statement, these days, isn't it? To say in our mess of a world, amid a tide of unbelief, "I believe in one God." It's not a welcome statement, the one we make, but a prophet's never welcome. You need a gift to say it. The gift of prophesy we got at baptism.

My Dad had a really annoying habit - at least I found it annoying even if he used to think it fun. Whenever he got a present he wouldn't open it. He'd take his time and play this game of trying to guess what he'd received by feeling through the paper, weighing up the parcel, shaking, or even smelling the packet. And if he thought it was socks again or something else he didn't really want, he had the terrible habit of leaving his gift on one side, unopened. Not very nice for whoever had made the present!

I wonder if we're a bit like that with the gifts that we received at baptism. We got three royal gifts on that day - but many of us have left them unwrapped and hardly used. We sort of guessed - like my Dad did that this isn't really something that I fancy and so left them on one side. Or maybe it's that we use our gifts all the time but have just never named them?

You see, at Baptism, when the water was poured over us and we were anointed in God's name, we were given three things by God:- a gift from our Father to govern and bring the world under God's power, a gift from the Lord Jesus to prophesy and teach others of the goodness of God and of God's world, and a gift from the Spirit to make things holy, to sanctify. We believe that these gifts of our baptism made of each one of us a priest, a prophet and a king: all rolled into one! Is it that we've never opened our presents or just that we've never known or named them?

I don't suppose it matters as long as we name and use them now. If, when we stand and say, "I believe," we think of the prophetic prayer we're making; that amid the world's mess we still believe in the goodness of God and that all, in the end, will be well. If we remember, in this moment, that each of us has the power not just to vote for a better country but to govern our own little constituency here: to put things right and do our bit, where we are. And that we have the gift of making holy - every hour of every day if we bless it with the presence and the power of God's Spirit through prayer. This way we make the kingdom come.