

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Roxine Callow, 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 and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Mary Josephine “Jo” Feeley.

Anniversaries: James Hughes, Kath McLaughlin, Mervyn Turnberg, Alma Bates, Roger Hartley, Anne Walsh.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“The breadth of charity widens the narrow heart of the sinner.”

St Anthony of Padua

“Family is the only real wealth.”

Author of the Letter of Barnabas



“As to persons living in the world, they shall find in this devotion all the aids necessary to their state in life: peace in their homes, consolation in their work, the blessing of heaven on all their enterprises, comfort in their sorrows, a secure refuge during life and especially in the hours of death. It is plainly evident that there is no one in the world who will not receive all kinds of heavenly blessings if they have a true love of Jesus Christ manifested by devotion to the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.”

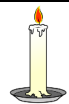
St Margaret Mary Alacoque



Last Week’s collection was: £1233.76. Thank you

£££

The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00



This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for all the sick of parish.



This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for Maureen Makin who celebrates her 90th Birthday.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER—9TH JUNE 2024



OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH, PRESTWICH

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TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 9th June	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 10th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 11th June St Barnabas, Apostle	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 12th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Thursday 13th June St Anthony of Padua	Holy Mass 12 noon
Friday 14th June	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 15th June	First Communion Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Confirmation

Bishop John Arnold will visit our parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our young people on Thursday 27th June at 7pm. Any young people who do not attend St Monica's need to register with me in order to be Confirmed on that day. **There will be a preparatory meeting for all those being confirmed on Sunday 9th June at 10am in the Hall.**

Tablet Magazine

The *Tablet* Catholic magazine have asked that we pilot selling their publication on the piety stall over the next few weeks. The parish will receive 15% of sales. If you're interested copies are available at the piety stall from this weekend.

Parish Social Committee

If you recently volunteered to help form a parish social committee we are going to meet at the presbytery on Thursday 13th June at 7.30pm. At this meeting we could decide on our terms and discuss some events to bring the parish together and raise some funds.

Book Club

Book Club. The next meeting of the group will be held on **Monday 10th June at 2pm in the Cottage.** We will be discussing "The Warden" by Anthony Trollope, the first (and shortest) of his Chronicles of Barsetshire.

New members will be very welcome. For further information, contact Vin Allerton by phone 0161-773 3318, text 07305 727900 or email: vinallerton@gmail.com.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet in the Cottage on Monday 10th June at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join the group.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in the parish at the 11am Mass on Saturday 15th June and Saturday 22nd June. On those days there will be no morning confessions or Exposition. Please pray for the children who are making their First Communion at this time and for their families.

New Size Missalettes

You will notice the new size missalettes. Some requested these but it was easier to order one size for all. Now we all can see and no one need struggle

At Home in the Church

It's unusual for us to hear of Jesus being at home—didn't he say that the Son of Man had no place to lay his head? Where was home for him? What was it like? Well, it seems that a lot of people knew where and that they felt completely at ease to go there and make themselves at home. Earlier, in Chapter Two of his Gospel, Mark tells us what happened when the people heard that Jesus had come back home: Again, the house was crowded out—so much so that the people took off the roof so as to get a sick man inside. These disciples considered Jesus' home to be their home and so felt free enough to re-imagine and reshape the house.

Do we feel that way? The church is supposed to give us a sense of what it's like to be at home with Jesus: A place where all are welcome and where, together, we should feel the liberty to re-imagine and reshape this home so that it better reflects the place where Jesus dwells. I think today's readings invite us to such a re-imagining, such a re-shaping.

There was a time when Catholics were certain that Jesus Christ had only made his home with them. We were the one, true, church and every Christian outside of it had strayed and should come back home. And we were very sure what shape this church had too: It was a pyramid, of course, with the Pope at the top and those who pray, pay and obey at the bottom. Nobody dared open a window—never mind take off the roof!

"A crowd was sitting round him at the time—and looking round at those sitting in a circle about him he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers.'" That's where Jesus felt at home with sisters, mother and brothers. At home in a place where people were on a level, looked each other in the face, listened to the Lord, and shared his wisdom and company. Are we mad to believe that this could ever be the church? They thought he was.

No, not mad—the Gospels offer various shapes or models of the church and in fact it's the duty of disciples to re-imagine and re-shape it so that it becomes, ever more, the one true church of Christ.

Each shape has its limitations. It's easier to hide in a pyramid and to blame those above and below for all that is wrong. It's been like that from the beginning, as we see from Genesis when our first parents hid and Adam blamed Eve and Eve, the serpent. And while this is less likely in a circle—circles can go round and round without leadership and structure.

Maybe this is why all things can be forgiven except sins against the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is the soul of the church; its life and growth. It's the Spirit who lets that which is on the outside die and who constantly renews the inner life of the body so that it is a fitting dwelling place for Christ. It's the Spirit who trains us and gets us into shape so we can carry this glory.