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## **NEWS FROM THE PARISH**

**RECENTLY DECEASED** Please remember in your Masses and Prayers David Carter and Mary Chadwick who have died recently. May they rest in peace, Amen.

**FR GREG WRITES:** On this Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we are given the Beatitudes—Jesus' vision of a world shaped by God's kingdom. In these words, Jesus lifts up those who are often overlooked: the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. The Beatitudes remind us that God's blessing is not found in power or privilege, but in humility, compassion, and a deep commitment to justice.

Today we also mark **Racial Justice Sunday**, which invites us to reflect on the dignity of every human person, made in the image and likeness of God. The Beatitudes challenge us to examine our own hearts and attitudes, calling us to reject prejudice and discrimination, and to work actively for a society where every person is respected, welcomed, and valued.

Next Saturday, I will be travelling to **Lourdes** to prepare for our diocesan pilgrimage. Lourdes is a place where people from every nation, culture, and background gather as one, united in prayer and hope. It stands as a powerful sign of the inclusive love of Christ and the healing grace God offers to all.

I would be very happy to take any **prayer petitions** with me and place them at the **Grotto**, entrusting them to Our Lady of Lourdes. Please feel free to pass them on before I leave, so that our parish intentions may be carried in prayer to this holy place.

May this Sunday inspire us to live the Beatitudes more faithfully, to commit ourselves anew to racial justice, and to walk together as a parish rooted in prayer, compassion, and hope.

Lent is just around the corner with Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February. There is a Lenten Retreat being offered by the Redemptorists, which of course you can do individually but here's a thought. Why not gather together in the parish rooms and do it together with your fellow parishioners? There would be so much more to be gained by sharing your prayer, reflections and thoughts on the discussion questions raised. Let me know what you think and tell me if you would like it to be advertised for others to come as we strive to continue our missionary discipleship.

**BANK DETAILS:** A number of parishioners have asked for our bank details so that they can set up standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity. Sort Code: 30-96-18 Account : 03900906 Name of account: St Mary & Annun Marple Bridge & New Mills Bank: Lloyds plc.