
First Holy Communions

Next Saturday a number children from our parish will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. They've had a long wait – most of them began their preparation in September 2019, and they should have made their first Communions last summer. Hopefully the delay will help them to appreciate even more the wonderful gift that is Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Perhaps you remember your own first Communion day. You may have photographs or some other memento of the day. Every first Communion day is special for all of us, not only for the memories it brings, but also for the opportunity to see anew how wonderful the Eucharist is. Let's use this moment in the life of our parish to renew our own appreciation of the unique and inestimable gift of Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament.



Please pray for the children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time next weekend, and for their families, that each of them may feel more deeply the closeness of Jesus and experience the grace of being united with Him.

Today's Readings

The Gospel today is the story of one of the great miracles of our Lord, the calming of the storm. The psalm recounts times when experienced sailors have feared for their lives but have been rescued after praying to God. In the first reading, taken from the book of Job, God speaks about it is He alone who has authority over these things; read in conjunction with the Gospel, it teaches us clearly: Jesus is God. In the second reading, St Paul says that our salvation in Christ teaches us not to live for ourselves, but for the Lord who has given His life so that we may live.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 12

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

| Date | Time | Occasion | Intention/Details |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 6pm (vigil) | TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Baby Martha McLoughlin RIP |
| Sunday 20 th | 9:30am* | | Bernard Harrison RIP |
| | 11:30am | | Roy Rawlinson RIP |
| | 6pm | | Clara Oastler RIP |
| Monday | 9:30am | St Aloysius Gonzaga | People of the Parish |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | St John Fisher and St Thomas More | Shirley Gilleade RIP |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | | Susan Hull RIP |
| Thursday | 9:30am | NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST | Ints Mary Millar |
| Friday | 9:30am | Our Lady of Fernyhalgh | All priests and deacons |
| Saturday | 9:30am | THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | Ints Jean Hampson |
| | 6pm (vigil) | | Lynne Dias RIP |
| Sunday 27 th | 9:30am* | | People of the Parish |
| | 11:30am | | George Oldcorn RIP |
| | 6pm | Special Intention (S) | |

* These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Evelyn Nickson** and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: This week only by appointment.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm. The church is also open next weekend Saturday 1pm-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

ANNIVERSARIES: Doreen Dewhurst, John Calvert, Bill Byrne, Mary Morgan, Monica Sharpe, Patrick Mullen, Richard Howard Southworth.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE: Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION: The video of the livestream is now available to view on our YouTube channel. Thank you to all the children and staff in our primary school who made it such a prayerful celebration of Jesus' presence.

COMING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER? If you are coming to pray privately in church, please pick up a "This space has been used" sheet at the entrance and leave it in your place when we leave. This enables us to clean spaces in between visitors.

CONFESSIONS: Please note that there will be no confessions or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament next Saturday, due to the First Communion Mass.

OPENING HOURS: The church is normally open for private prayer Saturday 11am-5pm (with Adoration and confessions 11am-12noon) and Sundays 1pm-5pm. Weekdays 5-6pm as usual. Please note the changes next Saturday (see above).

ST CLARE'S PRESCHOOL – LITTLE SAPLINGS: From September our primary school will have its own preschool, able to offer full-time provision for children from 3 years of age. The preschool will be accepting the 15hr and 30hr funding provided to parents. Please call school on 787037 or email bursar@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk to request a place for your child and any further information.

COVID NHS-APP IN CHURCH: In the church entrance there are QR codes which you can scan using the NHS Covid-19 app, if you have a suitable mobile device. Scanning this removes the need for the stewards to record your details. If you cannot (or choose not to) scan the stewards will record your attendance as usual.

ATTENDING MASSES: Booking remains necessary for the 9:30am Mass on Sunday morning. All other services can now be attended without the need to book.

ANOINTED YOUTH GROUP is now back up and running, meeting again on Sunday evenings. Anointed is for those in school years 7-9. Our Seekers group (years 4-6) and Sent group (years 10-11) are also meeting. Please speak to Fr Andrew or contact Ruth and Joe for more details. Safety measures are in place.

ROOM FOR RENT? A parishioner is looking for a place to stay. If you know of a room that can be rented at a reasonable price, please speak to Fr Andrew.

PRO-LIFE CAMPAIGN: Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to support the motion. It only takes 30 seconds! Please click the link to take part: www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion

SHALOM WORLD TV is an online Catholic TV channel providing a wide range of high quality programming. Take a look at <https://www.shalomworld.org>

SPECIAL COLLECTION this Sunday for the Day for Life, in defence of life at all stages.

“Unlocking” the Parish: our plan

The plan below gives some sense of how the parish may move towards normality in the coming months. The plan is subject to national restrictions and guidance we receive from the government and from our bishops.

At Step 4 of the government’s national roadmap (planned for 19th July):

- Car park restrictions will come back into force, freeing up space for the parish and for church/school events.
- Restrictions regarding face coverings, singing at Mass, social distancing etc. will be reviewed in line with latest guidance from the government and from the Bishops’ Conference.

Before the autumn (most dates to be confirmed):

- Weekday Masses will revert to the old Mass times from Monday 19th July. The 11:30am Mass on Sundays will continue until social distancing is no longer practised.
- An outdoor parish social event is planned.
- First Holy Communions for the 2019-2020 group take place next weekend.
- Booking requirement for all events will be lifted, if social distancing rules are relaxed by the government and we are confident that it’s safe.
- Visits to housebound parishioners and care homes may be possible.
- The church will reopen all day for private prayer.
- CTS booklets and leaflets will be available again in the narthex.

From September

- Children’s liturgy and all our youth groups should resume.
- A normal year of sacramental preparation is planned, including for children whose confessions, first Communion and Confirmation have been delayed.
- A full programme of parish social life will take place, if permitted.
- Other parish groups should be able to resume.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50th anniversary of our parish and school, in November 2021.
- We hope that the parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land planned for late October may be able to go ahead, if the pandemic and the security situation allow. Work is ongoing to assess this.

We plan to continue to livestream Mass each day, for the benefit of those who are housebound; everyone who can is strongly encouraged to attend Mass and rebuild our community. We will also continue with some other online output to assist with catechesis, evangelisation and outreach work in the parish.