

## **First Holy Communions – see inside for more**



### **Today's Readings**

After working several miracles, the the amazement of the people, today's Gospel finds Jesus returning to His roots in Nazareth, where His reception is much less favourable. The people of His home village do not deny His miracles or wisdom, but still refuse to accept Him because they know Him too well. His experience is linked to that of Ezekiel in the fist reading, who is sent to the Israelites by God, even though He knows the people are rebellious and will refuse to hear the message. In the second reading we hear St Paul writing about a "thorn in the flesh", presumably a painful illness, which he understands is given to stop him becoming proud on account of the mystical visions he has experienced. He teaches that true strength is to be found in our weakness, because it is then that we know our need of Christ and experience His power truly at work in us.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 14

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)	<b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Romeo Pereira RIP
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am*		Roy Holman RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Holy Souls
Monday	9:30am		Holy Souls
Tuesday	9:30am	Lyn Bamber RIP	
Wednesday	9:30am	Patrick Lepcha RIP	
Thursday	9:30am	Ronald Culshaw RIP	
Friday	9:30am	Holy Souls	
Saturday	9:30am	<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Bernard Keaveny RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Ida Fernandes RIP
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am*		Fr Bernard Woods RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Holy Souls

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

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Eva Littlefair, Christine Lowe, James Neary** and all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 11am-12noon and by appointment.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is also open Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Eileen Barnes, Tim Duffy, Joan Craven, Tim Buckley, Bernard Keaveny.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY:** We pray that in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:** Warm congratulations to eighteen children of our parish who received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time this weekend. Please keep them and their families in your prayers, along with four more children who were unable to go ahead today but will make their first Communion in the near future. See picture on front page.

**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 with Adoration, as usual.

**200 CLUB JUNE WINNERS:** £142 Angela Waddingham (No. 10); £85 Janet Metcalf (No. 6); £57 Peter Van Parys (No. 25). Thank you to all who support the draw.

**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](mailto:bursar@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk) to request a place for your child and any further information.

**SCOUTS OPEN EVENING** this Monday (5<sup>th</sup>), 6:30pm at the parish hall/back field. Come and discover more about our Scout groups. More details from Andrew 07359 105064 or see poster in the narthex.

**CONTACT YOUR MP:** The abortion lobby, led by the UK's largest abortion provider, BPAS, has worked with Diana Johnson MP to bring forward an amendment to introduce abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth to England and Wales. This would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. We are expecting that this radical proposal will be voted on by MPs this Monday. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool that makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to vote against the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds! [www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAbortionUpToBirth](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/StopAbortionUpToBirth)

**FAITH AND REASON: A CATHOLIC INTEGRATION** is a four-day course (residential or non-residential) at Stoneyhurst Christian Heritage Centre, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August. Open to all, especially catechists and teachers. See poster in narthex for more details.

**TELEPHONE AND ONLINE SCAMS:** We are aware of several online and telephone scams particularly targeting elderly people. Please be very cautious, especially with unsolicited calls and emails. Check authenticity, get advice from someone you trust, and never hand out your bank details unless you are certain it's genuine.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** next Sunday for the Apostleship of the Sea, which supports seafarers by providing chaplaincy services and spiritual support.

## **“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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.