

Our first 50 years: 1971

On Friday our whole school gathered in church for a 50th anniversary thanksgiving Mass. Many former teachers were present; it was quite a reunion! After Mass former staff members were given tours of the school by Year 6 children, a chance for them to see how things have changed and developed over the years. Today we begin our year-by-year look back at 50 years of our parish and school.

Our school opened on 2nd November 1971, with just 36 children: 15 infants and 21 juniors. There were only two teachers, Mrs Wright (headmistress) and Mrs Barnacle. The day before opening they spent the day in school preparing, and discovered that the heating wasn't working; the problem was rectified by the time the children arrived the next day. Some of the children who started came from Our Lady and St Edward's, and walked from their old school accompanied by their headteacher.

The school's log book records that on 21st November 1971 the hall was used for Sunday Mass ("in the absence of a church") – presumably this was the first occasion when Sunday Mass was celebrated in our parish. The school hall continued to be used for Mass over the next few months, before the hut opened. Fr Odran Callon was the Parish Priest; Bishop Brian Foley oversaw our diocese at that time; Paul VI was the Pope and Ted Heath was the Prime Minister.

Today's Readings

We meet poor widows in both the first reading and the Gospel today. Widows rarely had resources or income of their own, so relied on their relatives or charity to provide for their most basic needs. The widow visited by Elijah has almost no food left; aside from her poverty, the land is experiencing a drought. In the Gospel, the poor widow gives "all she has to live on". These two outstanding women are held up as examples to us, not simply to give when all our own needs and comforts are secure, but to be as generous as possible to those in need.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 32

The first Mass each day is livestreamed 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)	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Donor's Intention
Sunday 7 th	9:30am		Bernard Harrison RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Holy Souls
Monday	9:15am		Jordan Tucker RIP
Tuesday	7pm	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Bunty Banks RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	St Leo the Great	Barrie Cliff RIP
Thursday	9:15am	St Martin of Tours	Margaret Dorgu RIP
Friday	12noon	St Josaphat	Jean Warburton RIP
Saturday	10am		Pauline Kirkham RIP
	6pm (vigil)	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Beryl Jacob RIP
Sunday 14 th	9:30am		For the war dead
	11:30am		Tresamol
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Margaret Dorgu, Veronica Judge** 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 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: morning-6pm; Tuesday 9am-4pm; Friday 12:30pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-12noon.

ROSARY: After 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass on Fridays.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bert Brooks, Ron Cornah, Barrie Cliff, Harold Ellison, Martin Malone, Monica Wyatt, Francis Sherridan, Frances Harding, Mary Winifred McAteer, Judith Reilly.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? Our Journey in Faith group begins this Sunday (7th) at 7pm. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith is very welcome. If you (or someone you know) is interested, please get in touch. Please pray for God's guidance for all who are embarking on this journey.

LECTIO DIVINA – PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE: A new group meeting on Friday evenings, 7pm in the side chapel, beginning this week. Lectio Divina is a simple, gentle and reflective way of praying with the Bible. We will use a model based on St Clare's own writings. All welcome. No previous experience necessary!

RED WEDNESDAY: ACN's annual day of awareness for those persecuted for their faith takes place on 24th November. As usual, we will light up the narthex in red. Please see back page for a free and easy way in which you can help those in need.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: A special 50th anniversary quiz! Friday 26th November, 7pm in the parish hall. A fun and safe social event. All welcome.

TUESDAY MASS: Please note, on Tuesday 16th November the Mass will be celebrated at 10am (not 7pm) and will be a Deanery Mass for deceased clergy.

ACN CHRISTMAS CARDS: A selection of Christmas cards and small gifts will be on sale in the narthex at each Mass on the weekend 20th/21st November, with all proceeds going to support Aid to the Church in Need.

NOVEMBER LIST: All the names submitted have been placed in the box before the altar. Masses for the Holy Souls will be offered throughout the month.

NCW CATECHESIS: Continues Monday and Thursday evenings, 7pm in the narthex. All are very welcome to come along.

THE GIFT OF JESUS: Advent retreat day led by Philip McParland. At Corpus Christi High School, Saturday 27th November 10:30am-4pm. £20 donation. See poster.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: meeting this Thursday (11th) at OLSE church for a Mass for Deceased members at 8pm, followed by a hotpot supper in the Parish Centre.

From CAFOD: Please pray for the success of the COP26 talks. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please pray that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26

ADVENT RETREAT: Open to Year 10 and above and young adults (up to age 25), at Castlerigg Manor, 10-12 December. Details at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent

FOOD BANK collection this weekend: 6th/7th November.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 312 (figures for individual Masses: 61/104/84/63) Collection: £875.10; online giving for October: £1869.00. Thank you for your presence and your generosity.

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 7 th	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Journey in Faith Group	Side Chapel
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	3:20pm	After School Club*	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	NCW Catechesis (15)	Narthex
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side Chapel
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10am	Year 4 Reconciliation Prep (4)	Parish Hall
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 14 th	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Journey in Faith Group	Side Chapel

Events marked * are open only to members or those who have booked ahead.

COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH: You are welcome to sit in groups if you wish, but please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Face coverings should be worn when you are in church for any service, unless you are exempt. They are not needed when you come for silent, private prayer. It is no longer necessary to book for any services.

Red Wednesday: a simple and free way to help

SIGN OUR #REDWEDNESDAY PETITION

This year, #RedWednesday is back in the public square with a strong message against Christian persecution and especially against acts of violence aimed at Christian women and girls. We are calling on the UK Government and the UN to take action to stop the abduction, forced conversion and sexual enslavement of Christian women and girls as young as 12.

Please help us get the attention of the government and UN by signing and sharing our Petition today. Please ACT NOW to put an end to this suffering.

For more information and to sign the petition, click [here](#) or visit acnuk.org