

Our first 50 years: 1973

The first entry in the school log book for 1973 notes that building work has begun on the second phase of the school, only around 14 months after its opening. There were 109 children on roll, up from 36. In February there was a meeting to discuss provision of school places for Fulwood children, as there was overcrowding at Our Lady and St Edward's school – a sign of the rapidly growing community in Fulwood. The building work wasn't entirely smooth: there were concerns about security and the headteacher had to request that the builders put a fence around the excavations and the building work (after the work had started!), to stop children getting too close. The log book records that the school was always closed on Holy Days of Obligation, presumably so that children could mark the days and attend Mass with their families. That said, on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul, 29th June 1973, the infants had a school trip to Blackpool Tower Circus.

Today's Readings

On this, the last Sunday of the Church's year, the readings move away from the sequential reading of St Mark's Gospel and the letter to the Hebrews, and focus completely on the theme of Christ the King. In the Gospel, we find Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilate, in an exchange which discusses the nature of His kingdom. Here we see Jesus apparently weak: a captive, on trial before a provincial governor; and yet He is the Lord of all. We get glimpses of His real power and glory in the other readings. The prophet Daniel sees "one like a son of man" (a title Jesus frequently uses to refer to Himself) coming into the presence of "the One of great age" (God the Father) and receiving a sovereignty that will never end. In the second reading we hear from the last book of the Bible, the Apocalypse (or Revelation). Here too we see Jesus "coming on the clouds", as in Daniel's vision and in last week's Gospel. But He also shares His kingship with His faithful, making us "a line of kings, priests to serve His God and Father."

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 34

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)	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	Anthony Burton RIP
Sunday 21 st	9:30am		Veronica Judge RIP
	11:30am		Roy Rawlinson RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am	St Cecilia	Addicts and their families
Tuesday	7pm		Deceased members Catenian Circle 14
Wednesday	9:15am	Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions	Roy Rawlinson RIP
Thursday	9:15am	St Catherine of Alexandria	Michael Connolly RIP
Friday	12noon		Holy Souls
Saturday	10am		Holy Souls
	6pm (vigil)	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Thanksgiving for health and favours received
Sunday 28 th	9:30am		Sp Int (Thanksgiving SC)
	11:30am		Kath Wilding RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Margaret Dorgu, Mervyn Brock, Peter Harwood** 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: Harold Singleton, Bridget McNulty, Patricia Morris, Michael McCombe, Margaret Fowler, Margaret Panasiewicz, Patricia Barnish, Mary Bond, Peter Butler, Roy Rawlinson, Kath Bernie, Jack Wright, Caprise Sherriff, Frank Higgins.

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.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: Please keep in your prayers children in our parish who have just made or will soon be making their first confessions. We pray that they may experience the love and mercy of Jesus through this sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022: we will be running preparation for young people in school years 6-8 early in the new year, for them to be confirmed in May 2022. Registration forms and introductory letters are now available in the narthex.

RED WEDNESDAY: ACN's annual day of awareness for those persecuted for their faith takes place this Wednesday. 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! This Friday (26th November), 7pm in the parish hall. A fun and safe social event. All welcome. Please bring your own drinks and snacks for this event. Tables will be socially distanced.

ACN CHRISTMAS CARDS: A selection of Christmas cards and gifts are on sale in the narthex at each Mass this weekend, for Aid to the Church in Need.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC? Our Journey in Faith group meets again this Sunday at 7pm. For anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

LECTIO DIVINA will take place as normal this Friday, 7pm in the side chapel.

LITTLE SAPPLINGS NURSERY has places available for 3 and 4 year olds, starting in January; 15 and 30 hour funding accepted. See poster or call school on 787037.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION: New toys for children of all ages are needed for the Food Bank's Christmas appeal. You can drop these off with the food bank collection or leave them in the narthex until next Sunday (28th November). Please do not wrap gifts. Thank you for your generosity to this important cause.

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.

DIOCESAN CHORAL DIRECTOR: a new full-time role promoting singing for children in the diocese. See poster in narthex for full details of this job opportunity.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: next meeting this Thursday (25th) at 8pm, a presentation by Susan Douglass called "Pioneer Women of Winckley Square." At OLSE parish centre; admission £2. Christmas lunch final payments due by 8th December.

ADVENT RETREAT: Open to Yr 10+. Details at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent

FOOD BANK collection this weekend: 20th/21st November.

SPECIAL COLLECTION this weekend for the Diocesan Youth Service. Also next weekend (27th/28th) for Diocesan Poor Missions fund.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 322 (figures for individual Masses: 61/97/97/67) Collection: £633.81. Thank you for your presence and your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 21 st	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	Baptism Preparation (1)*	Side chapel
	7:30pm	Fabric and Finance Committee*	Narthex
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:45pm	Parish Pastoral Council*	Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
	7pm	50th Anniversary Parish Quiz Night	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 28 th	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

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