

Our first 50 years: 1975

One of the interesting aspects of the early history of our parish is that its very establishment was something of a leap of faith. Much of Fulwood was not built up when the parish was founded, so building a new school and church was a sign of the growth that was anticipated in the following years. The school's log book entries for 1975 contain a couple of particularly interesting references to this. In February of that year, our school was asked to assist in the foundation of St Peter's Church of England school. At a governors' meeting in March, it was agreed that help would be provided, and when the school reopened it housed, for one term only, a class of 25 children who were the first pupils at St Peter's. It was a sign of the spirit of ecumenical cooperation already active in the area, and attracted some interest, including a visit from the Lancashire Evening Post on 7th May. The log book simply refers to "St Peter's Class", which occupied a part of our school for one term only, before the new St Peter's school was opened on 5th January 1976. Meanwhile, our own school continued to grow, and when it reopened after the 1975 summer break it had seven full time teachers and six classes. On the very same day, 1st September 1975, the log book records that work on building the Royal Preston Hospital began. This work, which would take several years and would change the landscape of our young parish, was a further sign of and catalyst for the rapid growth and development of Fulwood.

Today's Readings

Each year on the Second Sunday of Advent we are reintroduced to John the Baptist, the great prophet who bridges the Old and New Testaments, announcing the coming of the Saviour. Today we find him out in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In this way he prepares the way of the Lord. The first reading and psalm speak of the people of Judah returning from exile in the mid 6th-century BC, a great moment in which they experience the saving power of God. St Paul, meanwhile, continues to look ahead to the return of Jesus in glory, and prays that we may be found pure and blameless on that day.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: of Advent

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)	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	People of the Parish
Sunday 5 th	9:30am		Special Intention (TM)
	11:30am		Martin Malone RIP
	6pm		Mr Joseph RIP
Monday	9:15am		David Hurst RIP
Tuesday	7pm	St Ambrose	Margaret Culshaw RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	Special Intention (SC)
Thursday	9:15am		Roy Payne RIP
Friday	12noon		Special Intention (Reju)
Saturday	10am		Molly Ward RIP
	6pm (vigil)	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Jim and Teresa Cunniff RIP
Sunday 12 th	9:30am		Hibbert and Southworth families
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Mr Abraham RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **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: Sheila Gahan, James Ryan, Sr Patricia Wragg, Teresa Cunniff, Arthur Beesley, Thomas Calverley, Dorothy Higgins, Ken Penswick, Ken Tuson, Evelyn Spiro, Martin Brown, Muriel Hubbersty.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm and 7:30pm, then at Midnight and at 10am on Christmas Day. Booking will not be required for any Masses. Further details will be published nearer the time, in line with the latest Government health advice.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Donations in memory of loved ones are welcome, in marked envelopes. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas.

CRIB BLESSINGS: Tuesday 21st December at 7:30pm in the parish hall. Bring your home cribs to be blessed for the coming Christmas season.

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. Please return all forms to the presbytery no later than Friday 17th December.

COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH: 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 (but not for private prayer), unless you are exempt.

SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE: Children in Years 5 and 6 led a beautiful and very prayerful Advent service last week. It is now available on our YouTube channel.

ACN PROJECT: We are working to support the building of a new church/hall in India. One simple way to help is to “buy a brick”. We are hoping to sell 400 ‘bricks’ at £30 each. Donations can be made in an envelope (simply marked ‘buy a brick’) and handed in at the presbytery or with the weekly collection.

EXPLORING PRIESTLY VOCATIONS: a day for men (aged 18+) who are open to a priestly vocation, without any expectation of commitment. At Our Lady and St Joseph’s, Carlisle, on Saturday 22nd January, 10:30am-4pm. Mass, Adoration, reflections and lunch provided. For more details contact Canon Luiz Ruscillo (frruscillo@carlislecatholicchurch.org) or speak to Fr Andrew.

LITTLE SAPLINGS 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.

ADVENT RETREAT: Next weekend at Castlerigg Manor, Kewswick. Run by Diocesan Youth Service. Open to Yr 10+. Details at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent

ALTAR SERVERS’ RETREAT: 14th-15th January at Castlerigg Manor, Kewswick. For children Year 5-age 16. Details at <https://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/altarservers>

FOOD BANK collection this weekend: 4th/5th December. Next: 18th/19th December.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 289 (figures for individual Masses: 72/88/76/53) Collection: £613.62. Online giving for November: £2433.50. 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 5 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	Baptism Preparation (3)*	Side chapel
	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
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 12 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.

The Bishops' Statement on attending Sunday Mass

From the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales November meeting:

“The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love. At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass. We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.”

Full statement: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>