

The Easter Octave and Easter Season

Every year the Jewish people celebrate the great feast of Passover, recalling the great Exodus, when God brought the people out of slavery in Egypt and adopted them as His own. From there, He led them to the Promised Land. Easter is our Passover: God leads us from our slavery to sin and death and gives us forgiveness and new life; indeed, at Easter He offers the eternal life won for us by Jesus in His death and resurrection. The Last Supper was the Lord's Passover meal with His disciples; now, each time we celebrate Mass, God renews these gifts to us.

Scripture teaches that after the Passover, the people would continue to eat unleavened bread for a further seven days (so eight days in total). The Church continues this tradition by keeping the great feasts of Christmas and Easter for an 'Octave' (an eight-day period). In these first eight days of Eastertide, between now and next Sunday, we are encouraged to keep every day as though it were Easter Sunday itself, and to continue rejoicing in Christ's victory over death.

After the Octave, the season of Easter continues until Pentecost Sunday (this year, 5th June). In total, Easter lasts for 50 days, during which time we remain aware of the closeness of our risen Lord. The Paschal Candle will continue to burn at Mass over these seven weeks, and the readings and prayers at Mass remind us of the resurrection and the Lord's coming gift of the Holy Spirit. It's good for us to mark the 50 days of Easter in some way at home, and not simply to treat these joyful days as ordinary. By Tuesday morning people who are without faith will have left Easter in the past, but for us, it's different: we who have faith continue our rejoicing that the Lord has conquered sin and death, and shares His victory – His life – with us.



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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: of the Easter Octave

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	8:30pm (vigil)	EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	People of the Parish
Sunday 17 th	9:30am		Andrew Watt RIP
Monday	10am	Easter Monday	Margaret Rainford RIP
Tuesday	7pm	Easter Tuesday	Ron and Kath Birtles RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	Easter Wednesday	Alan Little RIP
Thursday	9:15am	Easter Thursday	Thanksgiving
Friday	12noon	Easter Friday	Peter Hampson RIP
Saturday	10am	Easter Saturday	Intentions of Sr Anne
	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	Lil Abram RIP
Sunday 24 th	9:30am		Special Intention (TM)
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11am-12noon and on request.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Tuesday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is usually open during the day for private prayer.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter McNeela, Joyce Botes, Frank Barnish, Frank Harrison, James Greenwood, Len Jones, Victor McGowan, Mary Sinnott, Joan Maxwell, Peter Hampson, Margaret Woodruff.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: We pray for healthcare workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

HAPPY EASTER: We wish you a very happy, blessed and joyful Easter. Despite the darkness which sometimes brings sorrow to our world and our lives, the Lord is truly risen. He is our hope. May you and your loved ones feel this hope now and always.

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who have been baptised or received into full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The Lord blesses His Church with new life and His people with faith! Let us continue to pray for one another.

MASSES THIS WEEK: are celebrated at the usual times, except for Monday, which will be at 10am as it is a Bank Holiday. There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

EASTER WALK WITH ME BOOKS: Copies are available, free of charge, in the narthex. Please take one and use it for your prayer during the Easter season. Day by Day Junior and Infant booklets are also available for the younger members of our parish.

EASTER FLOWERS: Thank you for donations towards the decoration of the church at Easter. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed throughout the season.

YOUTH PILGRIMAGES: The diocesan Youth Service has published details for the Lourdes Pilgrimage and also for World Youth Day 2023 in Portugal. There are also gap year opportunities. All info available at www.castleriggmanor.com The parish may be able to help sponsor young parishioners to make the pilgrimages – speak to Fr A.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: The new itinerary and booking forms are now available in the narthex. The pilgrimage takes place 22nd-29th October this year. Please contact All Saints Travel directly to make a booking or for further information.

ACN INDIA PROJECT: Donations of any size are welcome for our project to build a new church/hall in India. **Gift Aid** envelopes for ACN are now available in the narthex.

23 LRGS SIXTH FORMERS, including Ben from our parish, are fundraising for the DEC Ukraine appeal. They are each running, rowing or swimming 100km to total the distance from Lancaster to Kyiv! Support or follow them: <https://2300tokyiv.org>

FOOD BANK: Collection this weekend: 16th/17th April. There is currently urgent need of almost all food supplies due to very high demand. Thank you for your generosity.

JOB VACNCIES: The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst is looking for a part-time accountant, average 10 hours/month. Details from Stefan Kaminski (director@christianheritagecentre.com). There is also a chaplaincy vacancy at HMP Lancaster Farms. The closing date is 22nd April. For full details [click here](#).

SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN: Saturday 23 April 11am-1pm. Silent act of witness to remember the millions of unborn babies lost to abortion. Meet on London Road, just north of Ribble bridge. Stay for all/part of the time. For info tel. 01772 723094.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 401 (88/174/103 NCW 36). Collection: £709.66. Thank you for your presence and 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 17 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
Tue-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Parish 50th anniversary meal*	Deepdale
Saturday	10am	Confirmation preparation (6)*	Parish Hall
Sunday 24 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	10:30am	First Communion parents' meeting*	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

Events next week (week commencing 25th April)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	3:20pm	After School Club*	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	3:30pm	Y3 First Holy Communion Prep (1)*	Parish Hall
	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10am	Y4+ First Holy Communion Prep (1)*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank collection	House porch
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 3 rd	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	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.

“Dear sister, dear brother: if on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, a day that has not yet dawned, a light dimmed or a dream shattered, go, open your heart with amazement to the message of Easter: “Do not be afraid, He has risen! He awaits you in Galilee”. Your expectations will not remain unfulfilled, your tears will be dried, your fears will be replaced by hope. For the Lord always goes ahead of you, He always walks before you. And, with Him, life always begins anew.” Pope Francis, Easter Vigil Homily 2021