

Our first 50 years: 1999-2003

1999 saw the arrival of another new assistant priest, Fr Philip Smith, who would stay for nearly 12 years of service here and in the hospital. A few weeks later, the world marked the turn of the millennium, and our parish took part in a Churches Together service at Corpus Christi on 2nd January 2000. This year also saw the death of Bishop John Brewer, who had served our diocese since 1984. After a year's vacancy he was succeeded by Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, who came from his previous post in Westminster. He was installed in the Cathedral on 4th July 2001, and – given his lack of local knowledge – soon went around the diocese, making an deep impression by his down-to-earth style. He was in Preston 22nd-24th Jan and then again 1st-21st June. On 25th September 2001 the parish welcomed a very important new addition, with the official opening of Tabor, the new Carmelite Retreat House. Over the years countless people have benefitted from the spiritual programme there and the presence of the Carmelite friars, who stayed until 2017, when the Xaverian missionaries took over. Sadly they too plan to leave shortly, with no obvious successor to continue the spiritual work there. On 2nd June 2002 the parish held a Mass for the Queen's silver jubilee, part of a 4-day Bank Holiday weekend. The following year another great celebration took place in the parish. Fred Sanderson was ordained deacon here on 16th July, to begin his 13 years of diaconal service in our parish before retiring from active ministry in late 2016. Fred, of course, remains a valued member of our parish community and we thank him for all his contributions to parish life over the years.

Today's Readings

The fourth Sunday of Easter is often called 'Good Shepherd Sunday', as we always hear a Gospel reading from John 10 which uses this image. The first reading recalls the incredibly fruitful missionary work of St Paul and St Barnabas, who turn to the pagans (Gentiles) to offer them the good news of the Lord's resurrection. The second reading continues our glimpse into heaven, recorded in the book of the Apocalypse (Revelation), where those who share Christ's victory also share His life.

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: psalter week 4; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: of the Easter season

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)	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Joan Burns RIP
Sunday 8 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Lil Abram RIP
Monday	9:15am		PJ and Nuala Gordon RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Paul Whittle RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Patrick Hoyle RIP
Thursday	9:15am		George Oldcorn RIP
Friday	12noon	Our Lady of Fatima	Bernadette Darwen RIP
Saturday	10am	St Matthias	Agnes Kerr RIP
	6pm (vigil)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	People of the Parish
Sunday 15 th	9:30am		Doris & James Mattinson RIP
	6pm		Alan Little RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Fr Tom Shufflebotham SJ, Deacon Frank Cole, Bob Snape**, and all who have died recently.

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-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: Thomas Lupton, Lilian McGuire, Patrick Hoyle, Edna Kiely, Philip Baker.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY: We pray for young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Please remember in your prayers the young people of our parish who will be confirmed here by Bishop Paul next weekend. We ask for a generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help them grow in their faith.

ACN INDIA PROJECT UPDATE: We have received the following message from Fr Stanislas about the project we have undertaken to build a new church/parish centre in India: *"Little Flower Mission would never forget your generosity. We are overwhelmed by your gracious help. We have begun the construction work. On 21st March 2022, our bishop visited the mission station and laid the foundation stone, with the blessing prayer, for which some of our faithful were present. Work has begun and is in progress."* Donations of any size are welcome to continue the work.

Gift Aid envelopes for ACN are now available in the narthex, and you can now also use the 'Digital Collection Plate' to make donations. We will soon also share some images of the community and the early progress of the building work.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA: Wednesday 1st June, 2-4pm in the parish hall. Please sign up in the narthex if you would like to attend this joyful occasion. Donations will be welcome to go to Ukraine and our ACN India project.

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.

FOOD BANK: Collection next weekend: 14th/15th May. There is currently urgent need of almost all food supplies due to very high demand. Thank you for your generosity.

FINDING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST, THE POOR AND CREATION: Saturday 4th June, 10:30am-3pm including Mass. Organised by the diocesan Faith and Justice commission and led by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy. Book via Eventbrite. See poster.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday (12th) 8pm at OLSE Parish Centre, a talk by Pat Osborne called "The Brontes, Behind Closed Doors." Visitors welcome. Admission £3. Annual membership (£7) is also now due.

23 LRGS SIXTH FORMERS, including Ben O'Brien 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! Info/to support: <https://2300tokyiv.org>

SPECIAL COLLECTION this Sunday for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund, which pays for training new priests in our diocese. Thank you for your contributions.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 379 (86/170/91 NCW 32). Collection: £730.29. Electronic donations in April: £2492.50. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 8 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	10:30am	First Communion Parents' session (1)*	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
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 (3)*	Parish Hall
	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10am	Y4+ First Holy Communion Prep (3)*	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 15 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Metanoia's Homeless Drop-In runs 6:30-8pm every Wednesday evening in St Wilfrid's Church. The volunteers assist in setting up and tidying away the space, providing refreshments, assigning the needed clothing or toiletries, as well as spending time listening and talking with the people, so they are reminded of and have an experience of God's love and mercy. If this sounds like a role you would like to give your time to or you would like any more information, please ring Jen 07957566741 or email jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FORMATION PROGRAMME at Stonyhurst is currently open to applications from students in Lower Sixth. The application deadline is Friday 3rd June 2022, although references will still be accepted after that date for applications that have already been submitted. For more details, see poster, speak to Fr Andrew or visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/clf/>

FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM

CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our food with our *Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey* resource.