
Our first 50 years: 2008-2009

On 15th September 2008 St Clare's third Parish Priest, Fr Chris Loughran, arrived from Kendal. He quickly set to work and came with many new ideas, forging parish links to Cenacolo (a community for recovering drug addicts) and to a school in Hodovo (Bosnia), for which the parish did much fundraising during his time here. Improvements to the church building and some adjustments to the weekly timetable soon followed. Around this time the parish celebrated the first Days of Renewal, which still continue today. At the diocesan level there were changes too: in 2008 Bishop Michael Campbell arrived as Coadjutor Bishop, taking over fully from Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue in May 2009. In September of that year the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux visited our country, attracting great crowds wherever they went. There was brief visit to Carmel before the relics spent two nights in our cathedral; a coach load from St Clare's travelled to take part in the pilgrimage, joining around seven thousand who visited the Cathedral during the relics' stay. Fr Lakeland, meanwhile, took up duties in his new post as Parish Priest of St Francis, Hill Chapel, and so remained active, albeit with a somewhat reduced workload.

Today's Readings

In a world so troubled by violence, it is reassuring to hear the Lord's promise to us today: "Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give: this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." These words were spoken at the Last Supper, shortly before the Lord's arrest – hardly the most peaceful moment of His earthly life. And yet, despite the outward trouble, an inner peace is always our Lord's gift. We also hear today the promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in the Son's name; we are being prepared for the great feast of Pentecost, just two weeks away. In the first reading we hear of the Council of Jerusalem, convened to discuss what should be asked of Gentile converts – a key moment in the early years of the Church. The second reading gives us a vision of the new Jerusalem – the city of God – in other words, heaven. It is lit neither by lamp nor sun, but simply basks in the light of God's glory.

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

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: psalter week 2; 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)	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Lil Abram RIP
Sunday 22 nd	9:30am		Fr Bernard Woods RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Bon Thomson RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Charles and Elizabeth McDowell RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	St Bede	Eileen McCroary RIP
	7pm (vigil)	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	Alan Little RIP
Thursday	9:15am		People of the Parish
	7pm		Holy Souls
Friday	12noon	St Augustine of Canterbury	Fred Littlefair RIP
Saturday	10am		Holy Souls
	6pm (vigil)	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Lyndon Cole RIP
Sunday 29 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Alan Little RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Deacon Frank Cole, Yvonne Witherington** 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: Andrew Keating, Jack Clayton, Ken Hollis, Constance McCann, Margaret Cowley, Thomas Thompson, Maureen Middlemiss, Jim Murtagh, Marion Stuart, Mary Josephine O'Neil, Anna Hall, Michael Lappin.

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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: This Thursday is the great feast of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses are 7pm Wednesday, then 9:15am and 7pm on Thursday. Please note that our primary school will be at the morning Mass.

HOLY SPIRIT NOVENA: Novena prayers for the days between the Ascension and Pentecost are now available in the narthex, for you to pray the novena at home.

ST CLARE'S SCHOOL OFSTED: Warm congratulations to everyone at school for their recent Ofsted report, which identifies many aspects of the wonderful work which goes on there. The school continues to receive a 'Good' rating. We are very proud of our primary school and the close bond between school and parish community.

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. 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.

FOOD BANK: Next collection: 4th/5th June. There is currently urgent need of almost all food supplies due to very high demand. Thank you for your generosity.

MARY O'GARA FOUNDATION: The foundation aims to increase awareness of mental health and suicide prevention. A friend of Mary's is running 30 miles in her memory, to mark her upcoming 30th birthday. There is then a fun day at the Sherwood Pub next Saturday (28th) from 10:30am. See poster or www.marysstory.org.uk

FINDING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST, THE POOR AND CREATION: Saturday 4th June, 10:30am-3pm including Mass. Book via Eventbrite. See poster.

SPECIAL COLLECTION next Sunday for Catholic Media (World Communications Day).

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 334 (61/148/85 NCW 40). Confirmation: 233. Collection: £781.99. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 22 nd	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	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
	7pm	Baptism Preparation (1)*	Side chapel
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	3:30pm	Y3 First Holy Communion Prep (5)*	Parish Hall
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 29 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/>

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN (20s and 30s)

27-29 May 2022 in Liverpool, organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. More info: contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit www.fcjsisters.org