

Our first 50 years: 2010-2011

A group from our parish were amongst those present at the papal Mass in Birmingham when Pope Benedict made his historic state visit to the UK in September 2010. The picture shows some of our group with the outdoor altar in the background. The following year Fr Darren Carden, who was already at St Clare's as a deacon, was ordained priest and appointed to work here as



assistant priest and hospital chaplain. 2011 also marked the 40th anniversary of the parish, with various celebrations taking place. Bishop Campbell came to celebrate a 40th anniversary Mass, and there was a parish dinner at PNE. A significant collection of photographs of parish life were also collected around this time, to build up a kind of pictorial archive of parish history. Around this time the Hodovo project was also in full swing, with a group from the parish going out to Bosnia to visit the school which the parish was supporting.

Today's Readings

This Sunday's Gospel comes from the so-called 'High priestly prayer' of Jesus, made after the Last Supper before His arrest. He prays for the unity of the Church, for the gift of faith for the whole world, and that we might be with Him in heaven to share His glory. In the first reading we hear of the martyrdom of St Stephen, the first to give his life as a witness to Christ. The second reading comes from the very final lines of the Bible, an appeal from the Holy Spirit and the Church (the 'Bride') that Jesus our Saviour may come in glory, as He promised.

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)	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Lyndon Cole RIP
Sunday 29 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Alan Little RIP
Monday	9:15am		Mary O’Gara RIP
Tuesday	7pm	The Visitation of Our Lady	Bob Snape RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	The Dedication of St Clare’s	Intentions of Sr Anne
Thursday	9:15am		Lilian Culshaw RIP
Friday	12noon	St Charles Lwanga and companions	Alan Little RIP
Saturday	10am	PENTECOST SUNDAY	Frances Smith RIP
	6pm (vigil)		People of the Parish
Sunday 5 th	9:30am		Christine Troger RIP
	6pm	Lil Abram RIP	

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **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: Hilda McNeela, Eileen Mundy, Mary O’Gara, Evelyn Nickson, Philip Lee, Shaniece Hopkins, Josie Singleton, Mary McCann, Ethel Raisbeck, David Wilkinson.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE: We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.

DEDICATION OF ST CLARE'S: This Wednesday is the anniversary of the consecration of our church (1994), a feast day in our parish. Mass at 9:15am as usual. All welcome.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION: The Bishops of England and Wales have now lifted the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, which was given in March 2020 due to Covid. Please note that watching an online Mass does not fulfil the Sunday obligation for those who are able to attend in person. See back page.

BANK HOLIDAYS: Although Thursday and Friday this week are Bank Holidays, Mass will be celebrated both days at the normal time (9:15am Thurs and 12noon Friday).

FIRST FRIDAY: Please note, there will be no first Friday Holy Hour in June.

NCW IN GLASGOW: 14 young people from our NCW community are travelling to Glasgow this weekend for prayer, catechesis and listening to the Word of God. They will also evangelise on the streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh and meet with the Archbishops of the two cities. Please keep them in your prayers over the weekend.

INDIAN CAFE: Sunday 12th June, 10:30am-2pm. A traditional Indian Café experience in aid of our ACN India Parish Centre Project. Indian Chai, Tea/Coffee will be available as well as traditional snacks such as samosas and pakora. A minimum donation of £5/person is suggested. All your donations will be going to the project and all food/drink costs are borne by the volunteers organising the event. So please come along to support our fundraising and to enjoy a taste of Incredible India! To help us assess numbers please sign up in the narthex.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA: This Wednesday, 2-4pm in the hall for those who have signed up. Those attending, please wear something red, white and blue. Hot/soft drinks provided. If you would like an alcoholic drink, please bring your own.

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

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

WOMEN TOGETHER IN THE DIOCESE have organised a day of reflection on women's mission in the Church, led by Sr Philomena Grimley SHCJ. Saturday 11th June, 10am-3:15pm at Our Lady and St Edward's. Poster/booking forms in narthex.

CHAPLAINCY POST - H.M.P. LANCASTER FARMS: A fulltime Catholic chaplaincy post is now being advertised by the Prison Service. Closing date 30th May 2022. Details can be found at jobs.justice.gov.uk searching for reference 58481.

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

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 402 (96/172/89 NCW 45). Collection: £666.55. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 29 th	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	7pm	Baptism Preparation (2)*	Side chapel
Wednesday	2pm	Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea*	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	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 5 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.

STATEMENT ON THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION (Bishops of England and Wales)

“Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.”

Full text: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost/>