

St Clare's Catholic Church

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th August 2017



God's universal offer of revelation and salvation

When God first began to reveal Himself to humans, He chose to speak only to one nation: the people of Israel. Through the prophets and through events, God showed His presence and power working with them. But God always planned to open up this revelation to the whole world, as we hear in today's readings: "Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord... these I will bring to my holy mountain; my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples" (1st reading); "Let all the peoples praise You" (Psalm); "I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle" (2nd reading); and in the Gospel, a woman from outside of Israel comes to the Lord and has her prayer answered. We too are part of this universal offer of salvation. Thanks be to God!



FOCUS ON... receiving Communion frequently

Our patroness, St Clare, lived in a time when people received Holy Communion only very occasionally: she herself (despite her great holiness and religious vocation) only received the Eucharist seven times per year. More recently, the Church has encouraged us to receive Our Lord frequently, and Pope Pius X, whose feast day is this Monday, especially encouraged this practice. He recognised that Holy Communion is not a reward for holiness, but a path to holiness, since in receiving Christ we become more like Him. Still, we should always be careful to prepare well, and be sure that we are free of serious sins before receiving Our Lord's Body and Blood.



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 117

Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Year I, Week 20

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 19 th	6pm (vigil)	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Margaret Fisher RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 20 th	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm		Special Intention (IK)	
Monday	10:30am		Requiem	Gerry O'Neil RIP
	5:15pm		St Pius X	<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	In thanksgiving	
Wednesday	9:15am		Special Intentions (LF)	
Thursday	9:15am	St Bartholomew	Jack Burton RIP	
Friday	12noon		Gerry O'Neil RIP	
Saturday	10am		Anne Appleton RIP	
Saturday 26 th	6pm (vigil)	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	Frances and Graham Templeton: Silver Wedding	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 27 th	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm		Holy Souls	

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers all who have died, especially **Gerry O'Neil**, whose Requiem will be here on Monday at 10:30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am; Saturday 10:30am-noon.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon, and on request.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass, and before 12noon Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

ANGELUS: said at 12noon on Fridays, at the start of Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES: Hilda Helm, John Barton, Rev. Ronald Parsons, John Battersby, Andrew Lyons, Joyce Wilcox.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

GOING ON HOLIDAY? Don't forget to find details of the local church for Sunday Mass before you go. If you need help finding out where and when Sunday Mass is celebrated, please get in touch.



NARTHEX: WORK COMMENCING 4 SEPTEMBER: Please read the information on the back of the newsletter, which explains how the church will continue to function during the work on the narthex. Further info and map in the porch.

NARTHEX 'PLOTS': sponsor a plot for £50 – details in the porch.

PARISH VISITING GROUP: Do you know of someone who might appreciate a home visit? Please let us know if someone you know might be grateful of a bit of company from time to time. Or perhaps you yourself would welcome a chat with someone in the parish now and then. Speak to Mike Simpson or to Fr Andrew.

200 CLUB: August Draw this Sunday (20th). In the porch after 9:30am Mass.

FOOD BANK collection this weekend (19th/20th August).

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday (27th) Catholic Trust for England & Wales.

ACN SYRIA APPEAL DONATION BOXES: to take home and fill with small change, as we previously did with boxes for Hodovo. If you would like one of these boxes to use in your home, please collect one from the sacristy.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have recently moved to St Clare's, or moved to a new address in the parish, please fill in a parish register form (available in the porch) so that we can update our records.

KEYBOARD PLAYERS: Do you play a keyboard instrument? We will soon be in need of a keyboard player for Sunday 6pm Mass. Please speak to Fr Andrew.

WOMEN TOGETHER in the Lancaster Diocese: 16th September, 10:30am-3pm at Lancaster Cathedral. More information in the porch.

WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER: 1st-7th October. A chance to make a retreat in daily life, with time set aside each day for private prayer and a daily meeting with a spiritual director. Please contact Fr Ted at St Gregory's (930934) or Fr Peter at St Wilfrid's (555244) for enquiries. Poster and booking forms in the porch.

COVENANT BOOKS: during August, only open Thursdays, 10am-12:30pm.

CLEATOR PILGRIMAGE: Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, 10th September. Mass and Blessing of the Sick, 3pm. Celebrant: Bishop Campbell OSA. Details on the poster.

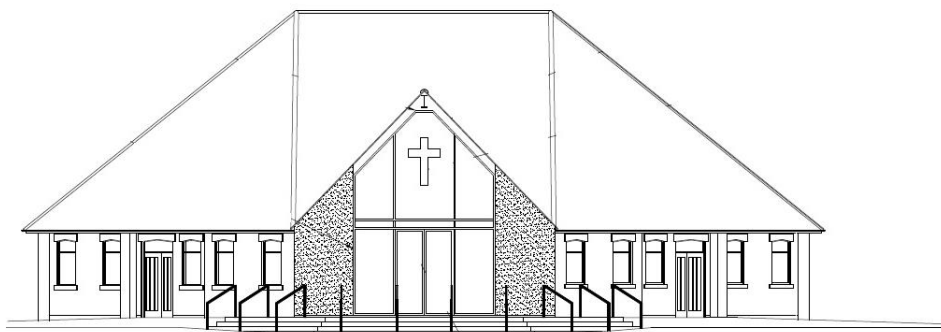
A SPIRITUAL SPA DAY FOR WOMEN: 9th September, Cor et Lumen Christi, Wigton, A day for women to experience the renewing love of God. www.corlumenchristi.org or call: 016973 45623 or 07516 075896.

CATHOLIC SINGLES: Helps single Catholics meet each other. See the poster in the porch for more information.

LAST WEEK: Attended: 390; Collection: £939.99. Thank you for your generosity.

Events this week

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Wednesday	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel



NARTHEX – CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTS 4th SEPTEMBER

From Monday 4th September the builders will be on site, demolishing the porch before building the narthex. The project is expected to take 16 weeks, so should be finished (weather permitting) just before Christmas. The information below explains how St Clare's will function during the building work:

The Church will remain open throughout, and will be used as normal for Mass, both during the week and on Sundays. It will also be available for funerals and baptisms throughout. However, **access will be via the side chapel only**. We will enter and leave the church via the chapel, where hymn books, Mass books, newsletters etc. will be available.

The Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the side chapel Monday-Friday (weekends in church as normal), as there is likely to be some noise in the church as the building work takes place. The side chapel will be open for private prayer.

Toilet Facilities: the toilet in the sacristy corridor will be open, only during Mass and other services. It must **only be accessed from the side chapel**, not via the double doors close to the font.

The Car Park will also remain open, however we will lose 5 or 6 spaces, as these will be in the area fenced off by the contractor. We are working closely with the school to minimise disruption during dropping off and picking up times.

The Parish Hall is unaffected by the work and will be in use as normal.

A map showing the layout of the site during the work is on display in the porch.