

St Clare's Catholic Church

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10th September 2017



Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Last week in the Gospel Jesus told us to take up our cross and follow Him. He teaches that the Way of the Cross is a way of love, in which we love first, then accept the suffering that love sometimes brings. The joy of love, of course, is greater than any suffering. This Thursday we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross – the cross is glorified, changed by Christ, so that it is no longer an instrument of shame and death, but of God's love and mercy. The following day is the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary knew the suffering that her love for Christ brought her, but now she shares in the glory won by His love.

FOCUS ON... the figure of Christ

This is the moment the figure of Christ on the front of the church was taken down on Wednesday morning. He has been there for almost 40 years, a sign to the world that this building exists as a home for followers of Jesus. Fortunately the figure itself is sound, though is in need of a good clean-up and refurbishment, so it is being taken away for renovation. We then hope to return him to the front of the church, all being well, before the narthex opens in a few months' time.

In a sense, this statue reminds us of our mission as Christians – to show Christ to the world. In this time when He will not be visible on our church front, let's seek to make Him even more visible in our lives.



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 125

Office: Psalter week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Year I, Week 23

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 9 th	6pm (vigil)	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Martin O'Malley RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 10 th	9:30am		Jack Burton RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	12noon	Requiem	Sophia Morris RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Moya Jones RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	St John Chrysostom	Joan Butler RIP
Thursday	9:15am	The Exaltation of the Cross	Anne Singleton RIP
Friday	12noon	Our Lady of Sorrows	Sophia Morris RIP
Saturday	10am	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	Gerry O'Neil RIP
Saturday 16 th	6pm (vigil)	Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Hilda & Peter McNeela RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 17 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Jack Burton RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers all who have died, especially **Sophia Morris** whose Requiem will take place here on Monday at 12noon.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon.

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: Teresa Lingard, Jane Martin, Anne Shaw, Rosemary Over, Sheila Rowlands, Frederick Wilson, Michael McDonagh.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: That our parishes, animated by missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

NARTHEX WORK - PARKING. Please leave the spaces nearest the chapel for those who find it harder to walk. If the car park is full, additional parking is available at the weekends on the school playground.

FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION 2017-18: Preparation begins on Sunday 24 September, for children in school year 3 and above. Collect an information letter and enrolment form from the church entrance after Mass.

MONDAY MASS is a Requiem for Sophia Morris, at 12noon. No morning Mass.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Today (10th) for Catholic Education Services. Next Sunday (17th) Home Mission Day.

SYRIA APPEAL: This week we sent an additional £1005 to the ACN Syrian Families appeal, from the Spanish Class, coin boxes, donations and early ticket sales for the Indian Dinner night (22 September). The total raised by the parish now stands at £7,621.78, excluding Gift Aid. A fantastic effort so far!

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.

INDIAN DINNER EVENING: Friday 22nd September in the parish hall. Tickets are now available - £10 per adult, £5 per child. In aid of the parish Syria project.

YOUTH GROUPS: The **Anointed** group (school years 7+) restarts this Sunday at 7pm. New members are always welcome! Includes a slice or two of pizza. The **Seekers** group (school years 4-6) restarts on Wednesday at 6pm.

CENACOLO COLLECTION: This weekend (9th/10th). **Food Bank:** 16th/17th. Please leave items for both in the presbytery garage, **not in the church entrance.**

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Next preparation begins on Monday 25th September. Please register with the parish office before attending.

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.

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. Booking forms available in the parish office.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting on Tuesday 14 September at 8pm in the OLSE parish centre. Beef or cheese hotpot. Cost £4.

LAST WEEK: Attended: 460; Collection: £958.55; Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	Garage
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
Sunday	4:30pm	Young adults' group	Chapel
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
Monday	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers	Parish Hall
Wednesday	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
Sunday	4:30pm	Young adults' group	Chapel
Sunday	7pm	Anointed Youth Group (yrs 7-9)	Parish Hall

Advance Diary Dates

24th September: Start of preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion

6th October: Diocesan Education Mass, at the Cathedral, 7pm

7th October: Messy Church

13th October: Parish trip to Blackpool Illuminations

14th October: Day of Renewal with Fr Frankie Mulgrew

15th-22nd October: 'Called Beyond' – Vocations awareness week

23rd October: Journey in Faith group begins – for exploring the Catholic faith

Further ahead and further afield

ACN OPEN DAY: Say goodbye to summer in the stunning gardens of Gresgarth Hall near Lancaster and support Christian families in Syria at the same time! Aid to the Church in Need gifts and cards available, along with refreshments.

Gresgarth Hall Gardens, Caton, Nr Lancaster (LA2 9NB). Sunday 17 Sept (11am-5pm). Suggested donation of £5 (accompanied children are free).

WOMEN TOGETHER IN THE DIOCESE OF LANCASTER: Gathering at the Cathedral, 16th September, 1:30am-3pm.

LET'S CELEBRATE CREATION IN THE FYLDE: 20th September at the St Monica's Church, Blackpool. Presentation, music prayer and reflection followed by refreshments.