



Franciscan of the Week: St Agnes of Assisi

The younger sister of St Clare, Agnes (whose birth name was Catherine) was born in 1197/8. When Clare left the family home to follow Francis, Catherine followed her and entered religious life, taking the name Agnes. Her father, furious at losing two daughters, sent relatives to bring her back by force, but – despite using violence – they failed. So Agnes joined her sister in the first ever community of Poor Clares at San Damiano. Later, Clare chose her to found new communities in Florence, Venice and Padua. Agnes returned to



Assisi and nursed Clare in her illness. Clare died in August 1253 and Agnes just three months later, on 16th November. Her feast day is 19th November.

FOCUS ON... The Divine Office

Also called the 'Liturgy of the Hours' and 'the Prayer of the Church', the Divine Office is based mainly on the psalms. It is prayed in its entirety (seven times of prayer per day) in monasteries, and priests pray these prayers five times each day. Many lay people also participate.

This liturgy allows us to extend our prayer throughout the day, meditating on the psalms which Jesus Himself used

in prayer. This Monday at 7:30pm in the chapel there is a talk on praying the Divine Office, exploring what it is and how we can make it a prayerful experience. Why not come along? Then in Advent we will pray Vespers (Evening Prayer) each Sunday at 4:30pm, and Lauds (Morning Prayer) each Monday-Friday at 7:45am. Take some time aside to discover this beautiful aspect of the Church's prayer.



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 160

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Week 34, Year 2

| Date | Time | Occasion | Intention/Details |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| Saturday 24 th Nov. | 6pm (vigil) | OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE | Paddy Fagan RIP |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> |
| Sunday 25 th Nov. | 9:30am | | Michael Connolly RIP |
| | 6pm | | People of the Parish |
| Monday | 9:15am | | Robert Clarkson RIP |
| | 5:15pm | | <i>Mass in hospital chapel</i> |
| Tuesday | 7pm | | Holy Souls |
| Wednesday | 9:15am | | For persecuted Christians |
| Thursday | 9:15am | John Baines RIP | |
| Friday | 12noon | St Andrew | Christine and Bernard O'Donnell – thanksgiving (Golden Wedding) |
| Saturday | 10am | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Frank Rogerson RIP |
| | 6pm (vigil) | | Mary and Eddie Sinnott RIP |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> |
| Sunday 2 nd Dec | 9:30am | | Doris & Jim Mattinson RIP |
| | 6pm | | People of the Parish |

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Harold Ellison**, whose funeral service will take place here at 11:30am on Tuesday, and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

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

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. Mondays: Joyful; Wednesdays: Glorious; Thursdays: Luminous; Fridays: Sorrowful mysteries.

ST ANTHONY: November wall box donations go to our ACN Iraq appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Kath Bernie, Jack Wright, Edgar Coupe, Freda Booth, Mary Kelly, Angelo Marcella, Anne Mulley, Ada Ellis, Lola Marie Gath.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: A number of children in our parish will make their first confession next Saturday. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Father Loughran, who has been appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. He will be installed at Mass in the Cathedral this Tuesday (27th November) at 12:15pm. All are very welcome to attend this Mass.

PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE: Talk this Monday at 7:30pm. See front page.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Takes place next Sunday immediately after 9:30am Mass. Donations for prizes (money or bottles) for the Draw and books, toys, bottles and sweets for stalls and tombola gratefully received. Cake donations on the day are welcome, directly to the parish hall.

THANK YOU to everyone who organised and supported the Quiz Night. £311.00 was raised for the parish development fund.

'PORTIUNCULA' PARISH MAGAZINE: Now available. Pick up your free copy/copies.

RED WEDNESDAY: This Wednesday many public buildings will light up red to raise awareness of those persecuted for their faith, making a stand for faith and freedom with ACN. Mass will be offered for persecuted Christians here at 9:15am.

ACN CHRISTMAS CARDS: will be sold in the narthex after all Masses this weekend (24th/25th), with proceeds going to our Aid to the Church in Need Iraq appeal.

MESSY CHURCH: 8th December, 1:30-3pm. Exploring Advent and Christmas through activities, games and Bible stories. All ages and denominations welcome.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting Sunday 9th December at 7pm. The booklet for this month is "Understanding the Story of the Bible". Copies available from Fr Andrew.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: Next weekend (1st/2nd), in place of the third weekend of the month, to give the Food Bank time to prepare Christmas parcels. Toys are also welcome as gifts for children. Please leave donations at the house porchway.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER: 'Women together in the Diocese of Lancaster' Saturday 1st December at the Xaverian Centre (formerly Tabor) from 10:30am-3pm. Cost £5, please bring your own lunch. Further information or to book a place: 01772 715495.

LOVE NEEDS TO BE ORGANISED: A talk by former MP John Battle at Tabor, Monday 10th December at 7:30pm. See poster in narthex. Free, but please book in advance.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: 'The true spirit of Christmas giving' brochures in the Narthex.

GLOBAL HEALING: A DVD presentation - how our faith helps us care for our common home. Sunday 2nd December, 7pm at Our Lady and St Edward's. All welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: next Sunday (2nd) for the Diocesan Poor Mission Fund.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 470; Collection: £993.76; Thank you for your generosity.

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

| Day | Time | What? | Where? |
|-----------|---------|--|-----------------|
| Sunday | 9:30am | Children's Liturgy of the Word | At Mass |
| | 10:30am | After-Mass tea/coffee | Parish Hall |
| | 10:30am | Reconciliation Preparation (6) | Parish Hall |
| | 2pm | Christ the King Youth Activities | Parish Hall |
| | 7pm | Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11) | Parish Hall |
| Mon-Fri | 9am | Pre-school | Parish Hall |
| | 3:20pm | After-school club | Parish Hall |
| Monday | 6:15pm | Cubs | Parish Hall |
| | 6:45pm | Baptism Preparation (1) | Chapel |
| | 6:45pm | Talk: Praying the Divine Office | Chapel |
| | 7:30pm | Scouts | Parish Hall |
| Tuesday | 6pm | Journey in Faith Group | Chapel |
| | 7:30pm | Prayer Group | Chapel |
| Wednesday | 9:45am | After-Mass tea/coffee | Narthex |
| | 6pm | Seekers (school years 4-6) | Parish Hall |
| | 7:30pm | NCW Penitential | Chapel |
| Thursday | 6:15pm | Beavers | Parish Hall |
| Sat/Sun | At Mass | Food Bank Collection | House porch |
| Saturday | 8:30am | Pilates | Parish Hall |
| | 9:15am | Reconciliation Preparation | Narthex |
| | 10:30am | Spanish Class | Parish Hall |
| Sunday | 10:30am | Christmas Fair | Hall and School |
| | 4pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | Church |
| | 4:30pm | Sung Vespers and Benediction | Church |
| | 7pm | Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11) | Parish Hall |

Advance Diary Dates

Monday 3rd December: School Advent Service (in church), 7pm

Saturday 8th December: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Mass at 10am

Tuesday 18th December: Blessing of your home cribs, 7:30pm

PARISH ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: 27th May – 1st June 2019

Are you thinking of coming? Please register your interest soon – if we do not fill all the places from the parish, we will need to offer places to other parishes, but we'd like St Clare's parishioners to have first refusal. Even if you can't commit at this stage, speak to Fr Andrew to register interest or to find out more. **The trip will be opened to other parishes at the end of this month.**