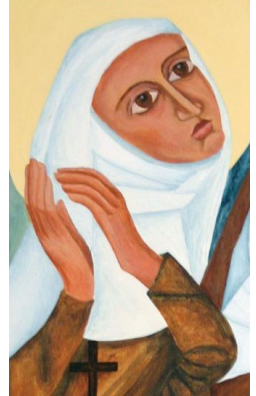

Franciscan of the Week: St Agnes of Prague

Agnes' father was the king of Bohemia, and from her early life she became a pawn in the power struggles of the time, betrothed to various strangers who might serve her father's interests. She refused marriage, though, preferring to consecrate herself to Christ. The Franciscan friars and Poor Clare sisters were her inspiration, and in 1236 she joined them. Agnes is significant partly because we have four letters written to her by St Clare, which give us an important insight into Clare's life and spirituality. Agnes lived 44 years in the convent before her death in 1280. She was canonised in 1989.



FOCUS ON... Making the most of Lent

This Wednesday we begin Lent, a season of grace – but only if we give God the space to work! There are three characteristics to this season: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Here are a few ideas to help you plan the season:

- **Prayer:** Take a full part in the events when the Franciscans join us next week – a great spiritual springboard for Lent! Join us for Stations of the Cross and/or Vespers on Sunday afternoons or Exposition and Morning Prayer during the week. Call into the church for some quiet prayer, or make some space at home.
- **Fasting:** give up something you will miss this Lent. It could be some sort of food, or TV, social media... you decide!
- **Almsgiving:** Find ways to give more generously, of your money or of your time and energy, to help someone in need. Charity donations can be made in the narthex wall boxes, or make a donation to ACN; and don't forget the CAFOD Lent fast day on Friday 15th March.

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

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 144

Office: Psalter Week 4; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Year 1, Week 8; then of Lent

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 2 nd March	6pm (vigil)	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Ken Penswick RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 3 rd March	9:30am		Special Intention	
	6pm		People of the Parish	
Monday	9:15am			Joseph Swamy and Valentine Menezes RIP
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	12noon	Requiem	Pauline Southworth RIP	
	7pm		Pr. Int. Sabrina Cockburn	
Wednesday	9:15am	ASH WEDNESDAY	For Penitents	
	7pm		People of the Parish	
Thursday	9:15am		Lynen Buntrock (Sick)	
Friday	12noon		Sheila Gahan RIP	
Saturday 9 th March	10am		Sophia Morris RIP	
	6pm (vigil)	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	For the Franciscan Sisters and Friars	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 10 th March	9:30am		Monica Dziubinska RIP	
	6pm		People of the Parish	

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Iris Jackson**, whose funeral will take place here on Monday at 12noon, **Pauline Southworth**, whose Requiem will take place on Tuesday at 12noon, **Canon Tom Dakin**, **Bernard Richardson**, and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Weekdays 7:45am during Lent.

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

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass.

ST ANTHONY: March wall box donations will go to the Medaille Trust.

ANNIVERSARIES: Winifred Taylor, Jack Farnworth, Elizabeth Duffy, Ted Boulton, Mary Hickson, Marion Holden, Anne Fisher, Marie Anderson, Ella Grall.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

ASH WEDNESDAY: The beginning of Lent. Mass with distribution of ashes at 9:15am and 7pm. This is a day of fasting for those in good health – this means one main meal and one light collation, and avoiding meat, alcohol and other luxuries.

VISIT OF THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS – ONE WEEK TO GO: Next weekend we will have the sisters and Fr Bernardino with us. They are only here for a few days, so please make the most of their visit and take part in the times of prayer each evening. Flyers with the full visit timetable are in the narthex.

JACOB'S JOIN: After the final Mass of the Sisters' visit (Thursday 14th March, 7pm) there will be a Jacob's Join in the parish hall. Please sign up in the narthex if you are able to contribute to this.

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS DURING LENT: As usual, we will have Stations of the Cross at 3pm, followed by sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Benediction at 3:30pm.

ST CLARE – LIGHT FROM THE CLOISTER: Four sessions telling the life story of St Clare and discovering her writings. Tuesday evenings during Lent (beginning 19th March), 7:30pm in the narthex. A chance to journey through Lent with St Clare.

COMING TO PRAY IN CHURCH? Don't forget, the church is open all day for private prayer. There are now some Bibles in the narthex, for you to borrow when you come to pray quietly during the day. Please return them as you leave the church.

THANK YOU: To all who organised and supported the Bingo Night. £351 was raised for our Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting is on Sunday 17th March. The booklet for this month is "Catholics and our Common Home", on the care of creation. Copies are available from the sacristy after Mass.

CATENIAN CHARITY NIGHT: Saturday 23rd March, 8pm at Preston Grasshoppers. Hot buffet, live music. In aid of our ACN Iraq appeal. See poster in narthex.

ROSARY SERVICE: This Tuesday, 2pm at Carmel (St Vincent's Rd). A talk by Fr John Millar and opportunity to pray the rosary together. All are very welcome.

HOMELESS: We have received a letter of thanks for a donation of £1,000 for the homeless in our city, raised from the Crib collection and the wall boxes in the narthex.

ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: 27th May-1st June 2019. Contact the parish office if interested.

DIOCESAN COORDINATOR OF SCHOOL CHAPLAINS: A new post to help support and form school chaplains in the Diocese. See poster in narthex for details.

LANCASTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 26th July-2nd August by air from Manchester. Information and booking forms in the narthex.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 424; Collection: £941.86; 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	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Holy Communion Preparation (3)	Parish Hall
	11am	Confirmation Preparation (6)	Chapel
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Parish Pastoral Council	Presbytery
Tuesday	6pm	Journey in Faith Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	Fabric and Finance Committee	Presbytery
	7:45pm	NCW Lent Announcement	Parish Hall
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 3-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo collection	House Porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	3:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

9th-14th March: visit of the Franciscan Sisters: 1 week to go!

The sisters and Fr Bernardino will be at Masses next weekend, then lead us in events Monday-Thursday of the following week. For the full timetable, pick up a flyer. Please pray that this visit will bring us many graces.



Prayer to prepare for the visit

St Clare, who chose a life of poverty, prayer and humble service, watch over this parish which bears your name. Bless and protect our community and intercede for us, that we may come closer to Jesus and grow in His likeness, who lived and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

