
CATECHESIS ON DISCERNMENT BY POPE FRANCIS

What does it mean to discern? Discernment concerns everyone because decisions are an essential part of life. One chooses food, clothing, a course of study, a job, a relationship. In all of these, a life project is realised, and even our relationship with God is concretised.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of discernment with images taken from ordinary life for example, he describes the fishers who select the good fish and discard the bad ones; or the merchant who knows how to identify, among many pearls, the one of greatest value. Or he who, ploughing a field, comes across something that turns out to be a treasure.

In the light of these examples, discernment presents itself as an exercise of intelligence, and of skill and will: these are the conditions for making a good choice. And there is also a price required for discernment to become effective. To perform his trade to the best of his ability, the fisherman reckons with hard work, long nights spent at sea, and then the fact of discarding some of the catch, accepting a loss of profit for the sake of those for whom it is intended. The pearl merchant does not hesitate to spend everything to buy that pearl.

Everyone must make decisions. At a certain point, adults can freely ask for advice, reflect, but the decision is our own. We can't say, 'I lost this, because my husband decided, my wife decided, my brother decided.' No. You have to decide, and in order to discern well, it is necessary to know how discern.

TODAY'S READINGS

The readings of this Sunday invite us to believe in a loving, patient, merciful, and forgiving God. In the first reading, Moses is imploring a forgiving God to have mercy on the sinful people who have abandoned Him to worship idols. In the second reading, Paul tells Timothy that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and that he is the greatest of them. In the Gospel reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son speaks to us about God's desire to show love and forgiveness to repentant sinners.

Priest in Charge: Fr John Mark Agulefo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Stephen Talbutt
Deacon: Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

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St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs A. Charnley

MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 136**Office: psalter week 4; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year II, week 24**

Sunday morning Mass is livestreamed and will be available for viewing later on our parish YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	People of the Parish
Sunday 11 th	9:30am		Pauline Drake RIP
	6pm		Sick & housebound parishioners and their carers
Monday	9:15am		Victims of the Pakistan floods
Tuesday	7pm	St. John Chrysostom	For peace in the Ukraine
Wednesday	9:15am	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	Joan Walmsley RIP
Thursday	9:15am	Our Lady of Sorrows	Holy Souls
Friday	12noon	Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian	Sick & housebound parishioners and their carers
Saturday	10am		Victims of the Pakistan floods
	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Mary O’Gara RIP (30 th birthday)
Sunday 18 th	9:30am		Gerald Topping RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for 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: Rosemary Over, Sheila Rowlands, Frederick Joseph Wilson, Lena Bernie, Veronica Greenhalgh, Susan Sharples, John Joseph Noblet.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER: **For the abolition of the death penalty** We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.

FR STEPHEN TALBUTT: Fr Stephen is now settling into the Parish, he will be assisting Fr John Mark in looking after St Clare's and St Gregory's parishes, as well as the hospital. Please pray for Fr Stephen as he begins his ministry here.

ST BERNADETTE RELIC TOUR 2022: In September and October the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales. Individuals and groups are invited to register attendance at their chosen church on the Relic Tour website www.stbernadette.org.uk/the-tour (see notice in the Narthex).

DIOCESAN EDUCATION MASS 2022: Lancaster Cathedral (LA1 3BT), Friday 7th October 2022 at 6:30pm. All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Paul Swarbrick at the annual Diocese of Lancaster Education Mass. The celebration gives us the opportunity to express our thanks and acknowledge the contribution made by all those in the Diocese involved in the work of education and formation in the faith. Together we ask for God's blessing on the mission of education and formation in our diocese.

ANNUAL CLEATOR PILGRIMAGE: This Sunday 11th September at the diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Cleator, Cumbria. 3pm Mass and blessing of the sick. All members of the diocese are warmly invited. The Bishop will preside and preach.

FOOD BANK: Next weekend: 17th/18th September. There is currently urgent need of almost all food supplies, particularly tea and coffee, due to very high demand at this present time.

PAKISTAN FLOODS DISASTER: The collection last weekend raised £630.86, which will be sent to CAFOD. For those still wishing to donate, this can be done at cafod.org.uk/give. Thanks for your offerings.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FULWOOD & BROUGHTON: A Jacob's Join to be held on Saturday 24th September in OLSE Parish Hall between 1pm-4pm. OLSE Choir will provide the music and songs, and prayers of thanks for the Queen's long reign will be offered. Tea and coffee will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own drinks. To reserve a place contact Pat Gibson tel. 866165 or Margaret Thompson tel. 719317.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: This Sunday is Education Day. There will be a collection for Catholic Education Services. There will also be a collection next Sunday (18th) for Home Mission Day, with an appeal being made by Fr Matthias Odaudu, a Spiritan Priest, who will speak at the weekend Masses.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 321 (63/140/118). Collections: £689.12. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 11 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	6:45pm	Anointed & Sent groups (ages 11-18)	Parish Hall
Mon-Friday	3:20pm	After School Club*	Parish Hall
	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (ages 8-11)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Side chapel
Wednesday	10am	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Fabric & Finance Committee*	Presbytery
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Side chapel
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 18 th	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	6:45pm	Anointed & Sent groups (ages 11-18)	Parish Hall

Events marked * are open only to members or those who have booked ahead.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION: Please note that watching an online Mass does not fulfil the Sunday obligation for those who are able to attend in person. The full statement of the Bishops can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost/>

FULWOOD FARMERS' MARKET WITH FAIRTRADE: This will be on Saturday 24th September from 9:30am to 1pm at Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling Street Road (see notice in the Narthex for details).

THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY: A six session course will be running at Christ Church, Victoria Road from 13th September – 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING: Please consider supporting this training at Corpus Christi High School, in memory of Mary O'Gara, by sponsoring parishioners walking the 'Santiago de Compostella' in September. A 'just giving' page has been set up (www.justgiving.com/RitaHunter3), and sponsorship forms are available in the Narthex. Please see Rita Hunter or Anne Metcalf for details.