

## Franciscan of the Week: Blessed Ortolana di Fiumi

Ortolana grew up living a devout life. She was a descendent of the noble Fiumi family and married Count Favorone di Offreduccio in Assisi. They went on to have four children, including St Clare and St Agnes of Assisi. Ortolana made several pilgrimages, including to Rome, Santiago de Compostela and the Holy Land, and after her husband's death she became one of the 'Poor Ladies', joining the community run by St Clare. She humbly lived the rest of her days on earth under her daughter's guidance at San Damiano.

## FOCUS ON... the Magi

Today we celebrate the Epiphany, the visit of the Magi who came from the East and presented Jesus with gifts. But who were they? The term suggests those who had special religious or philosophical knowledge. They may have been astronomers – after all, a star prompted them to begin their journey. Certainly they are 'wise men' who seek truth and goodness. They are often depicted as coming from the three known continents at the time (Africa, Asia and Europe) as a sign that the whole world is represented here, called to meet Christ. St Matthew merely tells us that they came "from the East" (Mt. 2:1). Tradition also describes them as kings, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies: "The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall bring Him tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring Him gifts" (Psalm 71(72):10); "Everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense" (Isaiah 60:6). Whoever they were, they are the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to meet the Lord, and so knowledge of the Lord is opened to all. There is a major shrine to the Magi at Cologne Cathedral in Germany. Don't forget to call and see the Magi in our crib this week.



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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 115

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Christmas Season, Year 1

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	6pm (vigil)	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	People of the Parish	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9:30am		Frank Machin RIP	
	6pm		Fr Leo Bamber RIP	
Monday	9:15am			Eric Bamber and Joan Walling RIP
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	10am	<b>Requiem</b>	Ken Penswick RIP	
	7pm		Gregory Malinowski RIP	
Wednesday	9:15am		Harold Ellison RIP	
Thursday	9:15am		Maggie Moss RIP	
Friday	12noon		Mgr Patrick O’Dea RIP	
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	10am		Martin Cliff RIP	
	6pm (vigil)	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	Mary and Ronald Airey RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm	PJ and Nuala Gordon RIP		

**LATELY DEAD:** Please remember in your prayers **Ken Penswick**, whose Requiem will take place here this Tuesday at 10am, **Martin Brown** 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. This prayer is offered for the protection of human life from conception to natural end.

**ST ANTHONY:** January wall box donations go to the crib appeal for local people.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Derrick Sharpe, Stanley Turpin, Walter Wilson, Niamh Face, Carole Thompson, Janusz Cichy, Agnes Gavaghan, Nora Jones, Susan Forster, Martin Cliff, Ernest Moore, Gerard Robinson, David Creighton, Joseph Billington.

**POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY:** That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all parishioners, visitors and all your loved ones. We pray that God may greatly bless you all, and our parish community, in 2019.

**THANK YOU:** Sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard in the run-up to Christmas to prepare the church and to all who participated in the liturgy, helping to make the Christmas season (so far) so very prayerful and enjoyable. On a personal note, thank you for the many cards and gifts I have received, and for the very generous Christmas offerings, as well as your constant prayers and support. Fr A.

**VISITS TO THE CRIB:** Don't forget to pay a visit to the crib and spend a little time in prayer there. There are some leaflets by the crib to help you. The crib is open each day from early morning until early evening, until next Sunday inclusive.

**LADY MILENA-GRENFELL BAINES:** Lady Milena was a child at the outbreak of World War II. She escaped the Holocaust – one of 669 children who were saved thanks to the Czech Kindertransport. She will give a talk on her experiences on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm in the parish hall. We ask for a £5 donation towards our ACN Iraq appeal. A donation will also be made to the Holocaust Memorial Fund.

**CTS BOOK CLUB:** Next meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The booklet will be *Lectio Divina* by Jean Khoury. Copies available from Fr Andrew.

**DAY OF RENEWAL:** 'The Power of the Holy Spirit', Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February, led by Sr Maria Natella. The day starts with Mass at 10am. Please bring a packed lunch.

**YOUNG PEOPLE - LOURDES:** Any young people interested in going to Lourdes with the diocese this summer, please speak to Fr Andrew asap. Poster in the narthex.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORY:** 2019 edition available in the narthex, priced £3.50. Please put money in the wall box marked 'CTS, books etc'.

**ASSISI PILGRIMAGE:** We still have a small number of places available for this pilgrimage (27<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2019). Twin/double rooms only. Speak to Fr Andrew.

**OLSE LADIES' GROUP:** Next meeting this Thursday at 7pm in OLSE parish centre. A presentation by Brenda Fox called "Ribble Valley Memories." Cost £2.

**SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** Collection next weekend (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Jan).

**ARCH - ABORTION RECOVERY HELPLINE** offers **non-judgemental, confidential support** for those struggling in the aftermath of an abortion experience. Open each evening, 7pm-10pm – if you are struggling, call 0845 603 8501.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** Don't forget to let us know if you or a relative in hospital would like a visit. If you need a priest in hospital urgently, always ask the ward staff to bleep the on-call Catholic priest.

**AT MASS:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 446; Christmas: 708; Holy Family: 466

**COLLECTIONS:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: £1329.51; Holy Family: £977.73

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	<b>Parish Council</b>	Presbytery
Tuesday	6pm	Journey in Faith Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	<b>Marriage Preparation (1)</b>	Parish Hall
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 3-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	9am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	<b>Cenacolo Collection</b>	House Porch
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4:30pm	<b>Confirmation Preparation (4)</b>	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

## 2019 – what can we expect at St Clare's?

We can never predict the future – but, on top of all the regular events of the year, here are some extra highlights planned for the coming year in our parish:

### 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March: Parish Retreat/Mission

Led by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, who live in the spirit of St Francis and St Clare, a week of spiritual events to begin Lent. This will be a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. Clear your diary for the week!

### 27<sup>th</sup> May- 1<sup>st</sup> June: Parish Assisi Pilgrimage

There are still a few places left. Why not join us? For those who aren't travelling, there will be opportunities back home to follow the pilgrimage and discover more about the town and its wonderful saints.

### 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June: Flower Festival

Marking 25 years since the consecration of the church, a flower festival in aid of our ACN Iraq appeal. Come and see the church in full bloom!

### Sunday 10th November: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, 6pm

The Bishop will celebrate Mass to mark 40 years since the church opened. This will be a great celebration for the whole parish. Make a note of the date!