

St Clare's Catholic Church

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th February 2017



The recent readings at Sunday Mass have been quite demanding, with last Sunday's gospel ending with the words, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Today there is a note of consolation running through all the readings we hear: the first reading tells us that God loves us even more tenderly than a mother loves her newborn child; in the second reading, St Paul tells us that each will receive whatever praise we deserve from God; and in the Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the great care that God has for each of us, and teaches us not to worry. Let us trust in that care, put all our needs and concerns into God's hands, then leave the rest to Him.

FOCUS ON... Ash Wednesday

Lent begins this week, inviting us to spend time in prayer and fasting, and to renew our efforts to serve others. All of these things draw us into a closer relationship with God. We are marked with ashes at the start of this season, a traditional sign of repentance and a reminder to us that we are mortal. One day we will leave this earth and return to God. This is not a cause for sadness or worry, but for joy: we will see face-to-face the God who made us and loves us. Lent is an invitation to respond to His love more deeply, casting aside our selfish ways, and growing in faith and love.



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 142

Office: Psalter Week 4; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Year 1 / of Lent

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 25 th	6pm (vigil)	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Barney Alfano RIP
	7pm		<i>NeoCatechumenate Way</i>
Sunday 26 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Gerald Darwin
Monday	9:15am		Intentions of Fr Loughran
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in Hospital Chapel</i>
Tuesday	11am	Requiem	Margaret Davis
	7pm		Intentions of Fr Darren
Wednesday	9:15am	Ash Wednesday	For the Lapsed
	7pm		For Penitents
Thursday	9:15am		Jack Burton RIP
Friday	12noon		Holy Souls
Saturday 4 th March	10am	First Sunday of Lent	Mary Traynor RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Tom McAuley, Snr RIP
	7pm		<i>NeoCatechumenate Way</i>
Sunday 5 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Holy Souls

Please keep in your prayers **Margaret Davis**, whose Requiem will take place on Tuesday at 11am. Margaret's body will be received into church on Monday evening at 6:30pm. Please pray also for those who are ill at this time.

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Wednesday-Friday 7:45am

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon, or by appointment.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sundays 3pm during Lent.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass and before Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

ANGELUS: Friday 12noon

ANNIVERSARIES: Edwin Smith, Isabella Main, Joe McCallion, John Kirk, Jean Bateson, Isabelle Maxwell, Mary Hurley, Maureen Ford, James Woodruff.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Mass will be celebrated at 9:15am and 7pm, with distribution of ashes. For those unable to make these times, there will be a Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes in the hospital chapel at 12:10pm.

FIRST FRIDAY: Holy Hour this Friday 7-8pm. A good way to begin Lent.

PARISH MEETING: There will be an open meeting on Friday 31 March at 7pm in the parish hall. A chance to find out more about what's going on in the parish and to offer your ideas for development in the parish. Note it in your diary!

LENT – READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Quiet afternoon with prayer and a brief meeting, Saturdays 2-4pm. For readers: 25 March; for Eucharistic Ministers: 1 April. Please make every effort to attend.

HOLY WEEK MUSIC PRACTICE takes place Saturday 11 March, 2pm in the church. This is open to everyone – we need keen singers! Please come if you can.

LENTEN LUNCHESES begin on 3rd March and take place most Fridays (not 10 March) through Lent. Soup and a roll. Donations to Aid to the Church in Need.

PARISH RACE NIGHT in aid of Youth Lourdes Fund. Friday 24th March, 7pm in the hall. Tickets just £2, available from this weekend.

HODOVO: The project has now been wound up. Thank you for all the hard work and fundraising over the last few years. Donations for charity are still being accepted, but will be used for a new charity fundraising project for the parish, to be identified soon. Find out more at the parish meeting (31 March).

SANCTUARY UPDATE: Unfortunately our carpet suppliers were unable to deliver on the agreed date, but they have promised us that the new carpet will be fitted this week. This will complete this phase of work on the sanctuary.

200 CLUB: Feb: 1st prize: £158.75 Charles Webb; 2nd prize: £105.25 Philip Wilcock; 3rd prize: £63.50 Prisca Lepcha.

PORCH ANNEXE UPDATE: A full update on progress will be given in March.

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM: Lenten series of Prayer & Bible Study, each Thursday, 2nd March – 6th April, 7:30pm, St Wilfrid's. See www.metanoiaproject.co.uk

GRANTS AVAILABLE from the Catenian Association, for young Catholics (16-25) volunteering to assist in pilgrimages to Lourdes or taking part in projects further afield. See www.thecatenians.co.uk, or contact Anthony, tel: 713046.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 3rd March, 1:30pm at Fulwood Methodist Church. Soup & Bread served from 12:30pm, refreshments later.

LAST WEEK: Attended: 430; Collection: £1088.90. Thank you.

This Week (one-off/occasional events are listed in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
Sunday	10:30am	First Communion Prep (3)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	7pm	Baptism Preparation (2)	Chapel
Monday	7:30pm	Journey in Faith	Chapel
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Hall
Monday	7:30pm	Scouts	Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (School Years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	GFF (School Years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
Wed-Fri	7:45am	Morning Prayer of the Church	Church
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	First Friday Holy Hour	Church
Saturday	9am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Saturday	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
Sunday	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church

Advance Diary Dates:

7th March: Social Committee 7:30pm

18th March: Messy Church 12:30-3:30pm

21st March: Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm

Further ahead and further afield:

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS: Easter Retreat, 13-16 April; Family Weekend 28-30 April (both at Castlerigg); Lourdes pilgrimage 19-29 July. More details on posters in the porch, or ask Fr Andrew.

WALSINGHAM: Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady, 26th-29th September 2017. £265 full board and sharing. See poster.

CALLED TO GLORY IV: Old Convent, Wigton, 18th-19th March 2017. See poster.

THINKING SCRIPTURE: rest and study time, 14th-17th July (long weekend) 14th-21st October (full week) at Boarbank Hall. Poster in the porch.

POLAND: Pilgrimage & holiday. 10th-19th Aug. More information on the poster or call Elita Fraser 01768 351265.