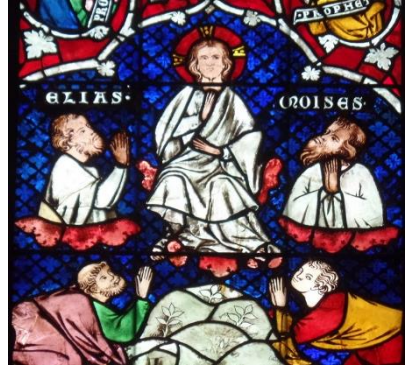


The Transfiguration of the Lord

This Friday we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. It's a very beautiful feast and a significant moment in the lives of the three Apostles who witnessed Jesus in glory on the mountain. For a brief moment they saw who He really was: not merely a holy man or wise teacher, a great prophet or even the Messiah: He was actually God. This glimpse of an otherwise hidden reality was still too much for them to take in, but was given especially to help them in the difficult days of the Lord's Passion, which were to follow later. On the feast of the Transfiguration we can pray that we, too, may be able to see more clearly the true glory of Jesus and to know Him as our God. Mass for the feast is celebrated at 12noon.



Today's Readings

Having heard last week of the feeding of the 5000, today we read the opening of the 'Bread of Life Discourse' which follows it in John 6. This passage is a lengthy teaching on Jesus, the Bread of Life, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist. We only hear the opening part today – later Jesus goes on to speak much more strongly about the importance of eating His Flesh and drinking His Blood, using language which sounds uncomfortable to us but was even more unacceptable to His Jewish audience. Accompanying this passage today is an extract from Exodus, in which God feeds the people of Israel with "bread from heaven". In the second reading, St Paul encourages us to undergo a "spiritual revolution", a complete change of life which puts the things of God ahead of our "illusory desires" for earthly things. Jesus, the Bread of Life, reminds us that bread alone will not satisfy us: it is the life we find in Him, eternal life, which alone can fulfil all our needs.

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

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 18

The first Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 st	9:30am		Monica Torlo RIP
	11:30am		Mary Gallagher RIP
	6pm		George Oldcorn RIP
Monday	9:15am		Ints Michael and Tam
Tuesday	7pm		Private Intentions (AE)
Wednesday	9:15am	St John Vianney	Sanctification of the priests of the diocese
Thursday	9:15am		Thanks for favours (BB)
Friday	12noon	The Transfiguration of the Lord	Mariyakutty Mathew RIP
Saturday	10am	Lancaster Martyrs	William Hamilton RIP
	6pm (vigil)	ST CLARE	Prayers answered (RF)
Sunday 8 th	9:30am		Kathleen Earnshaw RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Philip Madathil RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Kathleen Earnshaw** and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-12noon and by appointment.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon. The church is also open Monday-Friday morning-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 1-5pm.

ROSARY: After 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass on Fridays.

ANNIVERSARIES: Olive Dunn, Jeff Hodson, Lily Robinson, Jean Laking, David McCabe, John Wilson, Giovanna Ghiselli, Gerry O'Neil.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: This Friday, 7-8pm. Readings, reflections and hymns in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. There will be no Adoration 5-6pm on Friday.

OPENING HOURS: The church is now open for private prayer Monday-Friday all day until 6pm (with Adoration 5-6pm); Saturday 11am-5pm (with Adoration and confessions 11am-12noon) and Sundays 1pm-5pm. There may be occasional closures due to funerals and baptisms, etc.

CTS BOOKLETS: These are now back on sale in the narthex. Please sanitise your hands before and after handling any booklets.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CHURCH: You are welcome to sit in groups if you wish. Please be mindful of those who would like to maintain a safe distance from others.

FACE COVERINGS should be worn when you are in church for any service, unless you are exempt. They are not needed when visiting for silent private prayer.

BOOKING FOR MASS: It is no longer necessary to book for any services.

FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS: From this weekend we return to the old system of specific collection times for the Food Bank (rather than the current 'as and when' system). The next collection is on the weekend 14th-15th August.

SPARE FURNITURE? If anyone has any spare furniture/household items to help a parishioner in need to furnish her flat, please speak to Fr Andrew.

CHARITY BARBECUE FOR ACN: Organised by Preston & District Catenian Circle to raise funds for Aid to the Church in Need. Sunday 8th August 1pm at Haighton Old Hall, Haighton Green Lane, PR2 5SQ. Entrance is £15 per adult - includes all food and your first drink. Children 16 and under free. A bar will be available. For more information contact Anthony Donlan - 07971 788487.

ORGAN RECITAL: Sean Maxwell plays works by Bach, Hadyn and other Baroque composers at St Walburge's, Saturday 21st August 6:30pm. For full details and to get tickets, visit: <http://www.goldengiving.com/e/sw-organ-recital-2021>

FAITH AND REASON: A CATHOLIC INTEGRATION is a four-day course (residential or non-residential) at Stoneyhurst Christian Heritage Centre, 5th-8th August. Open to all, especially catechists and teachers. See poster in narthex for more details.

LAUDATO SI' ZOOM RETREATS: 3rd-6th September or 15th-18th October, organised by Boarbank Hall. Speakers in September include our own Bishop Paul and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. For more details, see poster in the narthex.

CTFB JACOB'S JOIN: In place of the annual Churches Together pilgrimage there will be a Jacob's Join at Our Lady and St Edward's on Saturday 11th September, 1-4pm. To book, please send your name and phone number to Margaret Thompson at 302 Sharoe Green Lane by 21st August. Numbers are limited. See poster.

Sunday Mass – a statement from the Bishops of England and Wales

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.

In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

“Unlocking” the Parish: our plan

The plan below gives some sense of how the parish may move towards normality in the coming months. It is subject to change!

Before the autumn (most dates to be confirmed):

- We hope to have an outdoor parish social event.
- Some visits to housebound parishioners and care homes are now resuming.

From September

- Children’s liturgy and all our youth groups should resume.
- A normal year of sacramental preparation is planned, including for children whose confessions, first Communion and Confirmation have been delayed.
- A full programme of parish social life will take place, if permitted.
- Other parish groups should be able to resume.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50th anniversary of our parish and school, in November 2021.
- We hope that the parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land planned for late October may still be able to go ahead. More information soon.

We plan to continue to livestream Mass each day, for the benefit of those who are housebound; everyone who can is strongly encouraged to attend Mass and rebuild our community. We will also continue with some other online output to assist with catechesis, evangelisation and outreach work in the parish.