

Saint Clare

Clare was born in Assisi on 16th July 1193 (or 1194), into a wealthy noble family. As a child she demonstrated great goodness and generosity. At the age of 17 she heard St Francis preaching – he had recently experienced his own conversion – and she was captivated by his message. They met regularly, though secretly, for a period of around a year, then on Palm Sunday 1212 Clare sneaked out of her family home at night, intent on joining Francis and his brothers. Down below in the valley, at the little church of St Mary known as the Portiuncula, Clare made vows and exchanged her fine clothes for a rough habit. Her family pursued her, attempting to take her by force back home, but she resisted and



was able to begin a new life as the first female Franciscan. With a group of 'Poor Ladies' including her own sister (and later her mother) she established a community at the church of San Damiano on the hillside below Assisi. It was here that St Francis had first heard Jesus speak to him, and where the famous 'San Damiano cross' (a copy of which hangs over our altar) was to be found. For more than forty years Clare lived here, observing a simple life of poverty, prayer and humble service, often taking the lowest place. Many – including popes – would come to her for advice and counsel, and several miracles are recorded. She was the first woman in the history of the Church to write a rule for others to live by, the rule which is still observed by the 'Poor Clares' today. After a long illness, which had plagued her for much of her life, she died on 11th August 1253 and was buried just inside the city walls of Assisi. Her body remains there today, in the Basilica of Santa Chiara, with a community of Poor Clare nuns.

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

Office: Psalter week 3; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 19

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)	ST CLARE	Prayers answered (RF)
Sunday 8 th	9:30am		Kathleen Earnshaw RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Philip Madathil RIP
Monday	9:15am	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	For Jeanette (sick)
Tuesday	7pm	St Lawrence	Divine Mercy Prayer Group
Wednesday	9:15am		Ints John Mark Millar
Thursday	9:15am		Ruth Cross RIP
Friday	12noon		Kathleen Earnshaw RIP
Saturday	10am	St Maximilian Kolbe	Kathleen Page RIP, living & deceased members of the Page & Loughran families
	6pm (vigil)	THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY	Patricia Turner RIP
Sunday 15 th	9:30am		Theresa & John Topping RIP
	11:30am		For healing (PL)
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for 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: Margaret Eaton, Francis Parker, David Callon, Maria Fairclough, Lucy Bond.

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.

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. Please note, the church will be closed on Tuesday morning this week due to routine maintenance work.

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 keep 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 COLLECTION: Next weekend (14th-15th August). Please leave items on the presbytery doorstep at Mass times. Thank you for your contributions.

CHARITY BARBECUE FOR ACN: Organised by Preston & District Catenian Circle to raise funds for Aid to the Church in Need. This 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.

CAN YOU HELP YOUR PARISH? As we reopen more fully, we will need volunteers for many aspects of parish life. Could you help your parish? Speak to Fr Andrew.

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>

JOHN BRADBURNE CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE: Saturday 11th September. A fell walk in Cumbria close to John's birthplace. See poster in narthex for full 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.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 271 (figures for individual Masses: 50/80/42/41 (NCW 58)) Collection: £630.33 (excluding online giving – we will begin publishing these figures shortly). Thank you for your generosity in supporting your parish.

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

- Further steps back towards normality at Mass, including an offertory procession and intercessions.
- 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.