

## Our first 50 years: 1976

The rapid extension of our primary school continued in 1976. On 26<sup>th</sup> April phase three of school opened, less than five years into the life of the school. Also during this year it was agreed to admit under-5s part time. By 1<sup>st</sup> September the school had 175 on roll - 160 full time and 15 part time pupils. Expansion was happening elsewhere, too. The log book entry for 25<sup>th</sup> November reports that the headteacher, Mrs Wright, attended official opening of English Martyrs' School.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October Fr Odran Callon, our first Parish Priest, presided at the school's Harvest Festival, which was a great success. After the service, parents helped to distribute more than 60 food parcels to those in need. Fr Callon is frequently mentioned in the log book, and was obviously a very supportive presence at school, laying the foundation for the excellent relations our church and school have always enjoyed. Although not mentioned in the log book, by this time Fr Callon must have been working on plans for building the current church, as construction work was already less than two years away.



Fr Odran Callon,  
our first Parish Priest

## Today's Readings

This third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' – the Latin word means 'Rejoice'. Our readings today carry a strong sense of joy, from the opening words of Zephaniah through the psalm response and the letter of St Paul to the Philippians. All of these encourage us to rejoice because the Lord is near. With less than two weeks until Christmas, these readings hint at the joy of Christ's birth already breaking into our world. In the Gospel the scene is a little less exuberant: we hear of John the Baptist teaching various groups what they must do to prepare for the coming of the Saviour. This involves a real change of heart, something which is far from easy. John also teaches about the greatness and the mission of the One who is to come.

**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 C; Weekdays: of Advent

The first Mass each day is livestreamed 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)	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Jim and Teresa Cunniff RIP
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Hibbert and Southworth families
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Mr Abraham RIP
Monday	9:15am		St Lucy
Tuesday	7pm	St John of the Cross	Rodger and Mary Furey RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Martin Banks RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Len and Sandra Hearle RIP
Friday	12noon		Ward family RIP
Saturday	10am		Ints Prisca Lepcha
	6pm (vigil)	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Veronica Judge RIP
	11:30am		Eileen Horan RIP
	6pm		Ann O'Brien RIP

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Peter Harwood** 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, Wednesday and Thursday: morning-6pm; Tuesday 9am-4pm; Friday 12:30pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-12noon.

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

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS:** This Friday at 2pm – the Chaplet and a reading from St Faustina's diary in preparation for Christmas. All welcome.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marie Hughes, Thomas Turberfield, Catherine Bradley, Margaret Magee, Mary Holland, Iqbal Cecilia Gill, Gerald Murray, Fr John Donlan, Catherine Livesey, Edward Riley, Thomas Lowe, Teresa Melling, May Alice Foy.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:** Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm and 7:30pm, then at Midnight and at 10am on Christmas Day. Booking will not be required for any Masses. Next weekend we will share further details of arrangements, adapted in line with the latest Government health advice.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Donations in memory of loved ones are welcome, in marked envelopes. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas.

**CRIB BLESSINGS:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7:30pm in the parish hall. Bring your home cribs to be blessed for the coming Christmas season.

**READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:** If you are willing to help out at Christmas, please let the parish office know which Mass you will be attending.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022:** Registration forms (school years 6+) available in the narthex. Please return all forms no later than this Friday (17<sup>th</sup>).

**COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH:** Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Face coverings are once again required by law whenever you are in church, unless you are exempt.

**NEW STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Please see the notice board in the narthex for some possible options. All feedback is gratefully received!

**SCHOOL NATIVITIES:** The wonderful nativity plays of Reception class and in Years 1 and 2 are now available to watch back on our YouTube channel.

**ST CLARE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – ACADEMY CONSULTATION:** The Governors of our primary school are exploring the possibility of converting to academy status. Parishioners are included in the consultation. A letter explaining the situation and rationale has been sent out by school; copies available in the narthex.

**ACN PROJECT:** We are working to support the building of a new church/hall in India. One simple way to help is to “buy a brick” (£30 donation). Donations can be made in an envelope (simply marked ‘buy a brick’).

**EXPLORING PRIESTLY VOCATIONS:** a day for men (aged 18+) who are open to a priestly vocation, without any expectation of commitment. At Our Lady and St Joseph's, Carlisle, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 10:30am-4pm. For more details contact Canon Luiz Ruscillo (frruscillo@carlislecatholicchurch.org) or speak to Fr Andrew.

**ALTAR SERVERS' RETREAT:** 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January at Castlerigg Manor, Kewswick. For children Year 5-age 16. Details at <https://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/altarservers>

**FOOD BANK** collection next weekend (18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> December).

**LAST SUNDAY:** At Mass: 335 (figures for individual Masses: 64/98/59/79; NCW 35) Collection: £565.03. Thank you for your presence and your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Journey in Faith Group	Side chapel
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	3:20pm	After School Club*	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	2pm	<b>Divine Mercy Prayer Group</b>	Church
	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Sat/Sun	At Mass	<b>Food Bank Collection</b>	House Porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Journey in Faith Group	Side chapel

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

## The Bishops' Statement on attending Sunday Mass

*From the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales November meeting:*

“The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love. At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass. We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.”

Full statement: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>