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## **Our first 50 years: 1983**

Twelve years into the life of our parish and school, the local area was still developing. By January of this year there were 208 children in our primary school (with pleasing symmetry: 104 girls and 104 boys!). On 1<sup>st</sup> June Fulwood received a royal visit, as Princess Diana came to



officially open the Royal Preston Hospital. The event is mentioned, without any details, in both the parish diary and the school log book (though the visit fell during the half term break). On 18<sup>th</sup> October Fr Lakeland led a service there for St Luke's day (Luke is the patron saint of doctors). The parish diary also records that Mass was celebrated regularly at both Sandybrook House and Meadowfield at this time. 25<sup>th</sup> March 1983 marked the beginning of an extraordinary Holy Year (a Jubilee), called by Pope John Paul II to celebrate 1950 years since the death and resurrection of Our Lord.

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## **Today's Readings**

One of the most famous Gospel texts is the Beatitudes which begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). Less well known are the Beatitudes recorded in Luke's Gospel, which we hear today at Mass. These begin a shorter sermon recorded by Luke, sometimes called the 'Sermon on the Plain'. Jesus gives here four beatitudes "How happy/blessed..." and four 'woes' "Alas for you who...", contrasting starkly worldly ambitions with the way of life Jesus asks His followers to lead. The first reading also speaks of curses and blessings, and reminds us that real blessing comes from putting our trust in the Lord. In the second reading, St Paul shows us how our entire lives hinge on the truth of Jesus' resurrection: it is this which gives meaning to our existence and enables us to live a life of faith, putting our trust in Jesus and looking forward to the life of the world to come.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book page 139

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year 2, week 6

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>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Ints Brian Bower
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Terry Cairns RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Donor's Intention
Monday	9:15am	<b>Sts Cyril and Methodius</b>	Holy Souls
Tuesday	7pm		Kath Wilding RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Donor's Intention
Thursday	9:15am		Donor's Intention
Friday	12noon		Holy Souls
Saturday	10am		Sue O'Brien RIP
	6pm (vigil)	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Thanksgiving (CM)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Helen Dean RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Lil Abram RIP

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Julie McCallion, Joan Warburton, Jeanette Brock** 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-Thursday: morning-6pm; Friday 12:30pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 12:30pm-6pm.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Len Stevens, Ann Corley, Pearline Viola Simpson, Pauline Southworth, Peter Whelan, Veronica Patricia Jolly, Thomas Bailey, Anne Dias, Margaret Davies, Jim McCallion, Dorothy Hayes, Maureen Rooney, Rhoda Myerscough, Georgette Mullen, Peter Newsome, Eva Marie Sergeant, Eleanor Mangan, Patricia Eager, Helen Hesketh, Richard Counsell, Jean Kirby, George Livesey, Keith Foster, Maud Melling.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:** We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women, thanking them for their mission and their courage. May they continue to find new responses for the challenges of our times.

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES:** The last 11:30am Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February. After that date this Mass will cease, and we will be back to pre-pandemic times, i.e. Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9:30am and 6pm. Weekday times are unchanged.

**WELCOMERS:** Could you be a friendly face to greet people at Sunday Mass? We are looking for volunteers to join a rota for Sunday Masses. Contact the office or Fr A.

**VATICAN SYNOD 2023:** Thank you to those who took part in the discussions. The deadline for paper/email submissions is this Sunday evening (13<sup>th</sup>). Our parish report will be sent to the diocese by the end of this month. Copies of the draft report are now available in the narthex. If you wish to comment on this or correct any errors, please get in touch before next Sunday evening (20<sup>th</sup> February).

**PRIVATE PRAYER:** The church is now open again at weekends for private prayer, as well as during the week. Feel free to call in and spend some time with the Lord.

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?** Only three weeks until Lent begins. During this time we are all invited to spend more time in prayer, to fast (or give something up) and to give more generously of our time and resources. What will you do this year?

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE:** Those who signed up will soon receive an update from the tour operator. The trip is now due to take place 22<sup>nd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2022. We will shortly open up bookings again for anyone who wishes to join us – more details soon.

**NEW COFFEE MORNING:** All parishioners are invited to a new coffee morning, in the parish hall each Wednesday, 10am-12noon. A chance for some social time together.

**ACN PROJECT UPDATE:** So far, we have raised around £7500 towards building a new church/hall in India. This is an amazing start to the project: thank you! Most of the money has come in through the 'buy a brick' scheme (£30 donation/brick – simply put the money in a marked envelope and hand it in). **Gift Aid** envelopes for ACN are now available in the narthex – please use them if able.

**HOLY WATER:** The stoups at the church entrance are now refilled and available to use if you wish. A supply of holy water for use at home is now available in the narthex.

**COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH:** Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Most/all measures are likely to be relaxed in the coming weeks, subject to local infection rates. After this weekend, face coverings will be optional in our church.

**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:** Meeting in church this Friday at 3pm to pray the chaplet and hear extracts from St Faustina's diary. All are welcome.

**FOOD BANK:** Collection next weekend: 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> February.

**LAST WEEK:** At Mass: 335 (figures for individual Masses: 74/87/60/74; NCW 40) Collection: £674.92. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Wednesday	10am-12	<b>Parish Coffee Morning</b>	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	3pm	<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 20 <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.

## Adsumus Prayer

*This prayer is the official prayer for the 2023 Synod. It is to be prayed as part of the discernment process as we seek to listen more attentively to God's Holy Spirit speaking in the Church today. Please use this prayer when considering your response to the Synod questions.*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together  
to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

## Diary Dates

2<sup>nd</sup> March: Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

19<sup>th</sup> March: Feast of St Joseph; Mass at 10am. Day of Renewal led by Sean Booth

25<sup>th</sup> March: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

22<sup>nd</sup> April: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary evening meal at Preston North End – details to follow

Details of the parish's spiritual programme for Lent will be published on the newsletter next weekend.