

Our first 50 years: 1984

On 9th January 1984 our primary school took delivery of a RMI 470 computer – apparently the first one at the school. How the role of technology has changed in our lives! A week later the school had its first ever visit from HMI, the school inspectorate, now Ofsted.

1984 was a significant year in the life of our diocese, as we welcomed Bishop John Brewer (pictured). He had previously been auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, and now came to Lancaster as coadjutor (effectively sharing responsibilities with Bishop Foley in the last year before his retirement). The following year Bishop Brewer went on to become the Bishop of Lancaster, a position he held until his death in June 2000. On 14th March Fr Lakeland was among the local clergy who attended a meeting with Bishop Brewer at St Gregory's Social Centre (a buffet lunch was provided!) and on 13th July the new bishop made his first visit to St Clare's to confirm the Junior 4 children. It would be Bishop Brewer who, ten years later, would consecrate our church.



Today's Readings

We find the teaching of our Lord today's Gospel beautifully illustrated in the first reading. As part of His 'sermon on the plan' Jesus teaches that we should love our enemies and pray for those who treat us badly. In the extract we hear from the first book of Samuel, David shows mercy on Saul, sparing his life when he has the opportunity to kill him. This despite Saul actively trying to put David to death. Jesus' challenging teaching gives us an insight into how He is towards us, always showing us love even when we make ourselves His enemies through sin. This difference between the Spirit of Jesus and the spirit of our flawed human nature is the theme of St Paul's discussion of the 'two Adams' in today's second reading.

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book page 142

Office: Psalter week 3; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year 2, week 7

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)	SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Thanksgiving (CM)
Sunday 20 th	9:30am		Helen Dean RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Lil Abram RIP
Monday	9:15am		Martin Keary RIP
Tuesday	7pm	The Chair of St Peter	Kath and Winnie Bean RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	St Polycarp	Joan Burton RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Thanksgiving (Prisca)
	12:30pm	Requiem	Julie McCallion RIP
Friday	12noon		Holy Souls
Saturday	10am		Donor's Intention
	6pm (vigil)	EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Ronald and Mary Airey RIP
Sunday 27 th	9:30am		Deacon John Kilshaw RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Alan Little RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Julie McCallion, Joan Warburton, Alan Little** 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: Maria Jakimovicz, Jack Bennett, Margaret Thelma Gavell, George Henry Green, Bill Walmsley, Anne Lovell, Norma Douds, Edwin Smith.

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 next Sunday (27th 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: Our parish report will be sent to the diocese this week. Thank you for your contributions. Copies of our response are now available in the narthex.

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 two 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?

LENT IN THE PARISH: Our spiritual programme for Lent 2022 includes a series of Tuesday evening talks on the book of Genesis (beginning 8th March), a full reading of St Mark's Gospel (25th March) and Lenten lunches (4th and 11th March, 1st April), as well as Stations of the Cross on Sunday afternoons. Copies of the Lent Walk with Me books will be available, and we also hope to hold a Reconciliation Service towards the end of Lent. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

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

BUY A BRICK: Thanks to everyone who has so far contributed to building a new church/hall in India. Although the 'buy a brick' scheme is suggesting a £30 donation, any donation, large or small, helps. If you would like to donate, simply mark your envelope 'ACN' or 'bricks' and we'll make sure it goes to the project. **Gift Aid** envelopes for ACN are now available in the narthex – please use them if able.

COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH: Face coverings are now optional in church, including at Mass. Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. We expect some further steps to return to the normal celebration of Mass in the weeks ahead, subject to local infection rates and government advice.

WINCKLEY SQUARE CONVENT ANNUAL REUNION 2022 will be held on 26th February 1:30-3:30pm at Our Lady and St Edward's Parish Centre, Fulwood PR2 9UE.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday (24th), 8pm at OLSE Parish Centre. A demonstration by David Whyles of "Painting in the Style of Bob Ross". Entry £2.

FOOD BANK: Collection this weekend: 19th/20th February.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 271 (figures for individual Masses: 66/85/57/63). Collection: £512.38. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank collection	House porch
Sunday 20 th	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
	7:30pm	Marriage Preparation (4)*	Narthex
	7:30pm	Fabric and Finance Committee	Presbytery
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	10am-12	Parish Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 27 th	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.

Using a card to donate to your parish

From this weekend our new 'digital collection plate' is available for use in the narthex. Many parishes have started to use these, as fewer people are now carrying cash. It offers an alternative way to donate to the parish. To use the new facility:

1. Input the amount you wish to give (either using an amount displayed on screen, or by selecting 'Other amount' and then entering the amount you wish to donate).
2. Use the card reader (to the right of the screen) to make the donation. You can use contactless payment or insert your card in the top of the reader and use the keypad to enter your PIN.

Diary Dates

2nd March: Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

11th March: CAFOD Lent family fast day – envelopes available on 5th/6th March

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

25th March: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

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