

Our first 50 years: 1978

In the Church, 1978 is remembered as “the year of three Popes”. On 6th August, feast of the Transfiguration, Pope Paul VI died after leading the Church for fifteen years. Then his successor, John Paul I, died after only 33 days in office. On 16th October Pope John Paul II, the first non-Italian pope in 450 years, was elected and began a papacy that spanned more than a quarter of a century.

Closer to home, work was beginning on the new St Clare's church, to replace the 'hut' which had been in use since 1972. On 5th November Bishop Foley came to the building site, which already included the church's frame, and blessed the 'Foundation Stone'. Many parishioners, school children, teachers and members of the local community were present. It would be another year before the new church would open.



Laying the Foundation Stone of the new church, 5th November 1978



Today's Readings

On this final day of the Christmas season we celebrate the feast of the Lord's baptism. This is the beginning of His public ministry, so this feast forms a bridge between the Christmas season and the rest of the year, in which we will journey with Jesus as an adult. The text from Isaiah speaks of the Lord's servant being presented to the people, ready to bring true justice to the nations, whilst we hear from the Acts of the Apostles that Jesus came to rescue people of all nationalities. We also hear St Luke's account of the Lord's baptism itself, which is brief but includes some significant details not recorded elsewhere.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year 2, week 1

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)	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Thanksgiving (JB)
Sunday 9 th	9:30am		Special Int (for a friend)
	11:30am		Mary Foy RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Joseph Mulligan RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Lenehan families
Wednesday	9:15am	St Aelred of Rivaulx	Martin Cliff RIP
Thursday	9:15am		John and Nicola
Friday	12noon		Michael Thompson RIP
Saturday	10am	Requiem	Sue O'Brien RIP
	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Thanksgiving (Menezes)
Sunday 16 th	9:30am		Berry family
	11:30am		Ronald and Margaret Culshaw RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Sue O'Brien, Reg Dorgu** 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-6pm; Friday 12:30pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-12noon.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Niamh Face, Janusz Cichy, Agnes Gavaghan, Nora Jones, Susan Forster, Martin Cliff, Anne Gray, Gerald Turner, Helena Corbishley.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

THANK YOU: At the end of the Christmas season, a final 'thank you' to everyone who has taken part in our Christmas celebrations and especially to all who give so generously of their time to make our parish what it is. Thanks also for all the cards, gifts and good wishes I have received over the season, and for your prayers. Fr A.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022: Please keep in your prayers the young people of our parish who are now beginning their preparation for this sacrament.

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.

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'). Thank you to all who have already contributed. We will provide an update on progress later this month.

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 22nd January, 10:30am-4pm. For more details contact Canon Luiz Ruscillo (fruscillo@carlislecatholicchurch.org) or speak to Fr Andrew.

SUNDAY HOMILIES are available to download/print off from our website each week, in case you wish to revisit what was said or to share it with others.

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

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday (13th) at 8pm at OLSE Parish Centre. A presentation by Elaine Taylor: "Rivington Terraced Gardens and other Gardens." Please do a lateral flow test before attending, if possible.

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION presents "Challenges of Covid-19: Ethical Perspectives from an Intensivist and Chaplains" at Lancaster University Catholic Chapel, 8th February, 7-9pm. All welcome, especially those who work in healthcare. Information and bookings: contact Cath Morgan bha@lancasterdiocese.org.uk

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING JOB: The diocese is currently seeking a new safeguarding coordinator (25 hours/week). See poster in narthex for more details.

FOOD BANK collection next weekend (16th/17th January).

ATTENDANCE AND COLLECTIONS: Fourth Sunday of Advent: At Mass: 350 (figures for individual Masses: 73/86/77/79; NCW 35) Collection: £626.40. **Christmas:** At Mass: 537; **Holy Family:** At Mass: 166 (figures for individual Masses: 70/96) Collection: £613.00. **Last Sunday:** At Mass: 315 (figures for individual Masses: 83/86/69/77) Collection: £562.53. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 9 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	Fabric and Finance Committee	Narthex
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	Lectio Divina	Side chapel
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 16 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.

Pope Francis on the importance of Adoration

“At the end of the Magi’s journey came the climactic moment: once they arrived at their destination, “they fell down and worshiped the Child” (cf. v. 11). They worshiped. Let us we never forget this: the journey of faith finds renewed strength and fulfilment only when it is made in the presence of God. Only if we recover our “taste” for adoration will our desire be rekindled. Desire leads us to adoration and adoration renews our desire. For our desire for God can only grow when we place ourselves in his presence. For Jesus alone heals our desires. From what? From the tyranny of needs. Indeed, our hearts grow sickly whenever our desires coincide merely with our needs. God, on the other hand, elevates our desires; he purifies them and heals them of selfishness, opening them to love for him and for our brothers and sisters. This is why we should not neglect adoration, that prayer of silent adoration which is not so common among us. Please let us not forget adoration.”

Homily of the Holy Father Pope Francis
Epiphany of the Lord, 6th January 2022