
Our first 50 years: 1980

After the opening of our church the previous November, 1980 was by all accounts a less eventful year in the life of the parish. The first wedding in the new church took place on 3rd May, one of five weddings that year. Before the turn of the year, four children had already been baptised in the new church (in December 1979) and a further 27 were brought to the font in 1980. As for confirmations, there were none in 1980, but 42 children had been confirmed by the Bishop on 18th November 1979, just one week after the new church opened. The school's log book records a fairly normal year in the life of the school, with the usual events, celebrations, day-to-day problems and the customary round of health checks for the children: dental checks, head inspections, eye tests and the like. In the summer holidays Mrs Barnacle retired – a significant moment, as she was one of the two original teachers at the school (along with Mrs Wright, still headmistress at this stage). On 8th October the Junior 4 children had tour of the new hospital, which was still some way off opening, and the Junior 1 children had their turn three weeks later. As the normal rhythm of life went on, work continued on building up the Fulwood area.

Today's Readings

Throughout the year we'll be hearing St Luke's account of the life of Jesus. Today we hear the very beginning of his Gospel, in which he tells us how carefully he has researched the life of Jesus in order to give us a reliable account. The Gospel is addressed to 'Theophilus' – literally, 'one who loves God' – a proper name, but also a reminder that we who love God are called to listen carefully to His Word. We then hear of Jesus preaching at the synagogue in Nazareth as He begins His public ministry, announcing His mission using words from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1ff). In the first reading we hear of the people listening to God's Word after their return from exile in Babylon, and being greatly moved by what they hear. Meanwhile, St Paul uses the image of a human body to describe the Church, reminding us all that each member has a particular role to play. We are, he tells us, the Body of Christ, called to live in unity, bringing Christ to the world.

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

Tel: 01772 719604 email: enquiries@saintclares.co.uk

www.saintclares.co.uk Social Media: @StClareFulwood

Lancaster RC Diocesan Trustees Registered – Charity No. 234331

St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs A. Charnley

Tel: 01772 787037 Fax: 01772 787016 email: head@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk

MASSES THIS WEEK

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

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)	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Hanley families
Sunday 23 rd	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Holy Souls
	6pm		Richard Anderton
Monday	9:15am	St Francis de Sales	Bp Patrick O'Donoghue RIP
Tuesday	7pm	Conversion of St Paul	Sue O'Brien RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	Sts Timothy & Titus	Ints Margaret Holding
Thursday	9:15am	St Angela Merici	Joan Burton RIP
Friday	12noon	St Thomas Aquinas	George Oldcorn RIP
Saturday	10am		Margaret Rainford RIP
	6pm (vigil)	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Lenehan families
Sunday 30 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Thanksgiving (MC)
	6pm		Holy Souls

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Margaret Rainford, Josephine Edwards, Paul Seagraves** 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: May Walmsley, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Jean Davies, Agnes Turner, Mary Gregson, Roy Williamson, Guy Horton, Winifred Fowler, Margaret Livingstone, Margaret Prince, Jean Moizer, Winifred Green, Elizabeth Worden, Margaret Williamson, William Staples, Elizabeth Moore.

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.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: Pope Francis has designated this Sunday each year as a day of special devotion to God's Word, reminding us of the need to place the Word at the centre of our lives all year round. There are some free leaflets (which had been due for distribution in March 2020) available in the narthex, giving lots of helpful insights into the Word of God in the liturgy and in our lives.

LECTIO DIVINA: Friday evenings, 7pm. A quiet and reflective way to pray with the Gospel. All welcome. Please use the side chapel entrance.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: The course at St Clare's begins this week, with couples from around the local area. Please remember them in your prayers.

VATICAN SYNOD 2023: The parish will hold gatherings to discuss the Synod questions on Tuesday evenings 1st and 8th February at 7:30pm. A sheet with the questions and a brief explanation is available now in the narthex.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: This time of prayer continues until Tuesday. Please pray that the Lord will help all His people to be united in faith.

COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH: Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Face coverings are currently 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'). **Gift Aid** envelopes for ACN are now available in the narthex – please use them if able. An update will be given next week.

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.

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

ARCH - ABORTION RECOVERY HELPLINE offers non-judgemental, confidential support for those struggling in the aftermath of an abortion experience. Open each evening, 7pm-10pm. If you are struggling, call 0845 603 8501.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Next meeting this Thursday (27th) 8pm at OLSE Parish Centre. A musical presentation by Graham Jackson called "Colour my World." Admission £2. Members are encouraged to do a lateral flow test before attending.

FOOD BANK: next collection: 5th/6th February.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 343 (figures for individual Masses: 71/91/66/72; NCW 43) Collection: £540.01. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 23 rd	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 (1)*	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
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 30 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 Word of God

With His word, He wants to change us, to invite us to live fuller lives and to put out into the deep together with Him. So, dear brothers and sisters, let us not ignore God's Word. It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear His voice, see His face and receive His Spirit. That Word brings us close to God. Let us not keep it at arm's length, but carry it with us always, in our pocket, on our phone. Let us give it a worthy place in our homes. Let us set the Gospel in a place where we can remember to open it daily, perhaps at the beginning and at the end of the day, so that amid all those words that ring in our ears, there may also be a few verses of the word of God that can touch our hearts. To be able to do this, let us ask the Lord for the strength to turn off the television and open the Bible, to turn off our cell phone and open the Gospel. It will make us feel God's closeness to us and fill us with courage as we make our way through life.

Homily of Pope Francis for the Sunday of the Word of God, 24th January 2021

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/papa-francesco_20210124_omelia-domicadellaparoladidio.html