

St. Clare's, Fulwood.

PARISH MAGAZINE



SPRING 2016

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed, alleluia! This is the old greeting which Christians used in times on by. As I write Holy Week and the main events of Easter are over with. As ever Lent was busy with a plethora of extra activities to draw us closer to God and prepare us for the joy of the Resurrection. This year Lent and Easter were earlier than usual; there is a move afoot to regularise the date of Easter, it has been tried before, but even now the western Church and the Orthodox celebrate at slightly different times. It will be a mammoth task to get all to agree on a set date. And then there is the difficulty of squaring it all with the Jewish celebration of Passover which is where our Easter has its roots.

The Easter Vigil is the usual time for new members to be welcomed into the Church.

(Stuart & Michael pictured)

Accordingly, we received two new members who had previously belonged to another denomination; we also baptised two adult young men and a baby. One of the main reasons for the existence of the Church is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. The Journey in Faith, the Catechetical Programmes, the catechesis offered by the NeoCatechumenal Way and the Life in the Spirit Seminars, as mentioned below, are all but ways of fulfilling the mission given by Jesus to his Church. Of course, evangelisation, to give it its Sunday name, is not confined to the realms of formal education. No, it is a duty laid on every Christian. We should pray to the Holy Spirit to give us the right word to say at the right time. Now we are firmly in Eastertide and heading up to the glorious feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost.

During Lent the NeoCatechumenal Community offered a catechesis in the parish and now a second Community has been formed. In the post-Easter period a series of *Life in the Spirit Seminars* is being run by the Tuesday Prayer Group.

One of our recent highlights was a *Mass for all Nations*. It was held on Easter Friday; the idea was to show how the universality of the Church



is represented here at St. Clare's. Most continents and many nations were represented; the reading and prayers were in various languages, national costume was worn by some and afterwards there was a delicious repast many having brought traditional dishes for a shared table.



At the present time, St Clare's is offering a deanery wide pre marriage course for couple intending to tie the knot this year. Once again, it is run by members of the NeoCatechumenal Community, two of whom have been running these courses for over 20 years in London.

Our catechetical programmes are heading towards conclusion. On June 19th & 26th respectively, First Holy Communions and Confirmations will be celebrated. Out thanks as ever go to Mrs Cywinski our chief catechist and her teams.

This being an Extra-Ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the PPC has set out a plan for a Parish Pilgrimage to SS Mary & John Southworth Church at Sablesbury which has been designated a Holy Year Pilgrimage venue. There will be opportunities for parishioners to get there by walking, cycling or car but all (except the infirm) will be asked to walk the few hundred yards. At the church there will be a short Service and an opportunity for Confession.

A YEAR OF MERCY

God, who is merciful, desires our mercy. Here are 56 ways to keep to mercy during the Jubilee Year. Try randomly selecting one each week and putting it into practice. (We gave you some extras; mix them up!)

1) Resist sarcasm; it is the antithesis of mercy: "*Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth; keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!*" (Psalm 141:3).

2) Pare down possessions: share your things with the needy.

3) Call someone who you know is lonely, even if you understand *why* they're lonely. *Especially* if you do.

- 4) Write a letter of forgiveness to someone. If you cannot send it, sprinkle it with holy water, ask Christ Jesus to have mercy on you both and then burn or bury it.
- 5) Learn to say this prayer: “Dear Lord, bless [annoying person’s name] and have mercy on me!”
- 6) Plan a mini pilgrimage to a local shrine; make an effort along the way to live the corporal work of mercy of “welcoming the stranger” as Christ.
- 7) Do something kind and helpful for someone who you don’t get along with, or who has wronged you.
- 8) Be mindful of your behaviour online. Is that post designed to improve your image ... and leave others feeling bad? Are you hammering people in order to serve your anger and humiliate others?
- 9) Have Masses said for the living: friends and family members, even strangers you read/hear about, who are having a hard time.
- 10) Be generous enough to allow someone to help you; people need to feel needed.
- 11) If you didn’t mean to be a pain in the neck to someone, admit that you were and ask the person to forgive you.
- 12) Take a tip from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and carry around £5 Starbucks and McDonald’s gift cards for the homeless.
- 13) Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family.
- 14) Send a card, flowers, gift or note to someone on the six-month anniversary of his or her loved one’s death. By then most people have stopped recognizing their grief.
- 15) Offer to babysit for a busy mum to go out and have a couple of hours to herself.
- 16) Make a meal (or buy a gift certificate) for a mum who’s just given birth or adopted a child, or for someone who’s just gone through a loss.
- 17) Hold-Your-Tongue.
- 18) Offer to run an errand (groceries, dry cleaning pick up, dog-walking) for a busy parent or homebound person.
- 19) If you can’t sit down beside a homeless person to talk for a while today, at least send a donation to a ministry that does do this.
- 20) If you’re sharing a treat, take the smaller portion.
- 21) Memorize the 14 corporal and spiritual works of mercy and show your children what they mean.
- 22) Instead of losing patience with someone online (or in person), try to hear their fear. Ask God for what Solomon asked for: “an understanding heart.”
- 23) Offer to drive an elderly person to Mass.

- 24) Recall a time you were not given a benefit of a doubt, and extend one to someone else.
- 25) Put down the phone and really listen to someone else, *with* eye contact.
- 26) Have alternative drinks, other than water, for times when those who have been struggling with alcohol come to visit.
- 26) Take advantage of sales to buy small toothpastes, soaps, shampoos, socks and feminine products/toiletries; donate them to parish outreach, or make gift bags and have them ready to hand out where needed.
- 27) Read John Paul II's "Dives in Misericordia" bit-by-bit through the year.
- 28) Create a short end-of-day ritual to ask for (and extend) forgiveness with those you live with. "...do not let the sun set on your anger" (Eph 4:26).
- 29) Make a list of your "enemies." Then, every day, say a prayer for them.
- 30) Make a point to smile, greet or make conversation with someone who is not in your everyday circle.
- 31) Give away something of yours (that you really like) to someone you know who would enjoy it.
- 32) Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet as you are traveling to or from work.
- 33) When mercy for others is difficult, pray Cardinal Merry del Val's Litany of Humility <https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/humility.htm>
- 34) Make a gratitude journal for your spouse and jot down little things he or she does that you're grateful for. Bite your tongue and go write in it (or at least read it) the next time you want to criticize in a moment of frustration.
- 35) Learn to make an Ignatian "Examen" every night. Remembering God's mercy each night helps us to be merciful.
- 36) Respond to provocation with the respect you wish a person would show you.
- 37) Learn the Jesus Prayer and use it.
- 38) Take a few minutes during the week to stop at a church and sit before the Tabernacle, simply to be with Christ, the Merciful. If you cannot do that, meditate upon the crucifix.
- 39) Pray a novena for the good of someone you dislike.
- 40) Dig out your most attractive stationery and hand-write an actual letter to someone, as a means of demonstrating their importance to you.
- 41) Offer to read to someone who is feeling ill or is just feeling blue.
- 42) Ask the Holy Spirit to groan for you when you cannot bring yourself to pray for someone who has done you an injury.
- 43) Lead with a kind comment with friends as well as strangers.
- 44) When conversations devolve into "the dark joy" of gossip, help change the subject.

- 45)** Can you play the piano, or any instrument? Can you recite poetry? Give free “concerts” to the forgotten people in nursing homes and assisted living centres.
- 46)** Visit the graves of your ancestors, or visit a local cemetery and walk around praying a rosary for all those buried there
- 47)** Go On Retreat. It’s a way to be merciful to yourself and also to the people around you, who know you *need* to go on retreat. If you cannot do that, at least try to make a day, or evening, of recollection.
- 48)** Admit your jealousy, both to yourself and your confessor.
- 49)** Offer to pray with someone, even someone you encounter on the street or public transport who looks like they could use it.
- 50)** Keep holy cards, short prayers, or blessed medals handy and give them out to people you meet as you are inspired as a blessing to others.
- 51)** Offer hospitality in your home to someone or a group of people you would normally never invite over.
- 52)** With a few other people at your church, plan a party and invite all those from “the highways and byways” to come.
- 53)** If someone you know seems to lack faith, share some of yours — tell him or her how Christ has changed your life.
- 54)** Pay the parking or toll fee for the person behind you.
- 55)** Give the much-maligned Pope Benedict XVI a fair reading sometime. You’ll be surprised.
- 56)** Pray every day for the souls in Purgatory. Pray for your dead.

THE CENACOLO COMMUNITY



Dodding Green is the tiny hamlet near Kendal where the Cenacolo Community is situated in the UK. There has been a dwelling on the site since the 14th century. It has long been associated with recusancy and the period of Catholic persecution following the Reformation. The house sheltered many priests over that period and escape routes were built into the property. When Catholic Emancipation arrived in the late 18th century, Dodding Green became the first Catholic public place of worship in the now defunct county of Westmorland. It is appropriate. Therefore, that the Cenacolo Community found a home there.

The House is licenced by the Local Authority to house 16 residents; at present it is only half full (empty!). Indeed, it has never seen a complete compliment which is strange when you consider that the UK has one of the most perplexing drug problems in Europe. But Cenacolo is not a drug rehabilitation unit. No, it is *a school of life*. A place where men learn what it is to be fully human; they are encouraged to find Christ as the anchor of their life. The life in the Community is very simple; there is a gentle rhythm of work, prayer and friendship. These men are learning how to trust God; that they live by Divine Providence is one palpable way of discovering that they can trust God for their needs.

MARTYRED IN 2016

Below is an account of the murder by ISIS in Aden of some Sisters of Charity (Mother Teresa's Sisters) and others in March this year.

SISTER RIO'S WORDS TO SISTER ADRIANA, MC: Friday, midday, March 4, 2016

Sisters had Mass, breakfast as usual. As usual, Father stays back in chapel to say prayers, then to fix things around the compound.

8:00am: Said apostolate prayer and all 5 went to home.

8:30am: ISIS dressed in blue came in, killed guard and driver.

5 young Ethiopian men (Christian) began running to tell the sisters ISIS was here to kill them. They were killed one by one. They tied them to trees, shot them in the head and smashed their heads.

The sisters ran 2 by 2 in different directions, as they have mens and ladies home. 4 working women were screaming, "Don't kill the sisters! Don't kill the sisters!" One was the cook for 15 years. They killed them as well.

They caught Sr. Judith and Sr. Reginette first, tied them up, shot them in the head and smashed their heads. When the sisters ran in different directions, the Superior ran to the convent to try to warn Father Tom.

They caught Sr. Anselm and Sr. Marguerite, tied them, shot them in the head and smashed their heads in the sand.

Meanwhile, the Superior could not get to the convent. It is not clear how many ISIS men were there.

She saw all the sisters and helpers killed. The ISIS men were already getting to the convent so she went into the refrigerator room, since the door was open. These ISIS men were everywhere, searching for her, as they knew there were 5. At least three times they came into the refrigerator room. She did not hide, but remained standing behind the door – they never saw her. This is miraculous.

Meanwhile, at the convent, Father had heard the screaming and consumed all the Hosts. He had no time to consume the large Host, so he threw the oil out of the sanctuary lamp and dissolved it in the water.

A neighbor saw them put Father Tom in their car. They did not find any trace of Father anywhere. All the religious articles were smashed and destroyed – Our Lady, crucifix, altar, tabernacle, lectionary stand – even their prayer books and Bibles.

10:00 or 10:15am: The ISIS men finished and left.

Sr. Sally came to get the bodies of the sisters. She got them all. She went to the patients to each one individually to see if they were OK. All were OK. Not one was hurt.

The son of the woman who was the cook (who was killed) was calling her on her cellphone. Since she was not answering, he called the police, and he went with the



police there and found this great massacre. The police and the son arrived at about 10:30am.

The police tried to take Sr. Sally out of there — she refused to leave the people who were crying, “Don’t leave us; stay with us.” But the police forced her to go with them because the ISIS knew there were 5 sisters,

and they were convinced they will not stop until they kill her too. So finally she had to leave. She took one set of clothes and the sisters' bodies, and the police brought them to an international hospital called "Doctors Without Borders" for protection. As there was not enough room in the mortuary of that hospital for the sisters' bodies, the police brought their bodies to a bigger hospital mortuary.

Sr. Sally told Sr. Rio she is so sad because she is alone and did not die with her sisters. Sr. Rio told her God wanted a witness and told her, "Who would have found the sisters' bodies and who would ever tell us what happened? God wants us to know."

Pope Francis had his secretary contact the Yemen Secretary of State very often – about once a week to check up on the sisters and reassure them of his closeness. Today, the Pope's secretary sent the message: "I thank them — Little M.C. martyrs." He said he is offering the 40-hour First Friday devotion for them.

Sr. Sally told Sr. Rio that Fr. Tom tells them every day, "Let us be ready for martyrdom."

Sr. Judith — they were trying so hard to take her for senior course, but they were not able to get her out.

Sr. Reginette — they were trying to send her for junior course but could not get her out.

God wanted them there.

Aden is rich city – a port city. Aden wanted to be its own state, so they got ISIS in to help them fight against Yemen. So ISIS won for Aden. That was the war last year, with all the bombing. They won, so that is over, but ISIS won't leave. They want to take over and exterminate any Christian presence. They did not kill the sisters in the war because they had no political reason to waste time on them. But now, they are the only Christian presence, and ISIS wants to get rid of all Christianity. So they are real martyrs — died because they are Christians. They could have died so many times in the war, but God wanted it to be clear they are martyrs for the faith.

Sr. Rio said Sr. Sally is fully surrendered. The police are trying to get her out because they will just keep after her until they kill her. She is fully surrendered and told Sr. Rio – whatever God wants. She said the other Muslims are so respectful of them. She said to pray that their

blood will be the seeds for peace in the Middle East and to stop the ISIS.

She said that if they kidnapped Father Tom most probably they will wait 2 days, then ask in exchange for Father Tom either money or the release of their members held in prison.

Sr. Rio said they were so faithful – ISIS knew exactly when they leave and when to break in. And because of their faithfulness, they were in the right place at the right time and were ready when the Bridegroom came.

Sr. Adriana said she thinks the crushing of the heads has some evil connection with “She will crush head of the serpent,” some kind of mockery or evil meaning.

FROM THE DIOCESE AND OTHER SOURCES

APPOINTMENTS:

Father Peter Groody as the new Director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Father Darren Carden as the new Diocesan Healthcare Advisor. Canon John Watson as Chaplain at Boarbank Hall. Father David Elder to retire. Father Tom Butler to be Parish Priest of Ss Mary & Michael, Garstang. Father Paul Dadson MSP to be Priest in Charge of Our Lady & St Patrick, Maryport and Our Lady & St Cuthbert, Wigton & Silloth.



Father James Burns to be Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Assumption, Blackpool. Father John Millar to be Parochial Administrator (until other provisions are made) - of Our Lady of Eden, Carlisle. Canon

Adrian Towers as Co-Director for Priestly vocations. Father John Mark Agulefo is now Priest Chaplain of St Benedict's Catholic High School, Whitehaven.

As from Sunday 10 January 2016, the new parish of St John Paul II, Preston will be formed (by canonical decree) from the current parishes of St Walburge & Sacred Heart and St Edmund Campion, Preston.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Thursday 29th September – Saturday 1 October. The cost is £150 per person (based on 2 people sharing). There is limited availability. Contact: Paul Briers 01946 834834 or email: guildshop@yahoo.co.uk

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell: Saturday 2nd July 2016 - beginning with Mass at 11.00am at St Mary's, Fernyhalgh.

LIFE ASCENDING: A Christian movement for those in their middle and later years, more information www.ascentmovement.org.uk Tel: 020 8202 4930.

CATHOLIC PEOPLE'S WEEK 2016: A lay-led voluntary organisation for people of all ages. For more information and the 2016 programme www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: Friday 22 July – Friday 29 July 2016 For general pilgrims: Contact the new Director, Father Peter Groody: thedirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk or for bookings for young people contact Patricia at Castlerigg Manor: Patricia@castleriggmanor.co.uk

BOARBANK: course programme – especially for the Year of Mercy: <http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk/index.php/whatson>

THROUGH THE REGISTERS

We send our congratulations to the families of the following who were baptised in the parish recently: Chase Charnock-Nolan, Maisie Malone, Niall Walsh, Rose Turner, Judith Keating, Macauley Scott & Fardin Amiri. And to: Stuart Murtha & Michael Hall received into the Church at Easter. We offer our condolences to the families of Mary Judge, Baby Isaac, Reginald Brown, Carole Thompson, Roy Williamson, Baby Dobson, Eleanor Mangan, Teresa Baines, Krystyna Bartle, Dorrie Lees, Barbara Levett & Margaret Brown whose funerals have taken place from here in recent months.

FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE

It is one of our aims to try and keep the parish Website up to date with the various events and activities. In the past we have reproduced here, in the Magazine, the various articles which appear on the website. It is, however, probably better to read them in situ. Recent posts have included: Messy Church, Holy Week Events, The Deanery Pilgrimage for The Year of Mercy, The visit of the 'Mercy Bus' and the 'Scrutatio' with the young people of the NeoCatechumenal Way and many others. Why not visit the website: www.saintclares.co.uk

WORLD YOUTH DAY



Every two or three years the Pope invites young Catholic to meet with him in a given city. This year the WYD is being held in Krakow and it is estimated that 2,000,000 young people will descend on Poland, some of them will be from this parish. If you are a regular here you can't

have failed to notice the plethora of fund raising events to help fund these young people for WYD. Our rationale has been to ask the young people to find half of the necessary amount and the parish, through extensive fund raising will raise the other half. We are also raising fund so that some of the young people we have been supporting in Hodovo will be able to take part in the WYD. But why send them at all? Our young people are under enormous pressure to conform to the standards of the world which are often counter to the standards of their faith. Attending such events as WYD they are helped to see that there are millions of other young people trying to faithfully live a Christian life, they are alone. The hope is that on the WYD pilgrimage the young people will have some sort of new encounter with Jesus Christ and in

this way have their faith strengthened to become the adult Christians of tomorrow. Please be generous in your prayerful support of them.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

At Corpus Christi, pupils and staff have been working very hard this term in preparation for the summer examinations, which begin in May. Pupils in Year 11 have been following a personalised revision programme setting out the revision work that they need to complete each day and pupils in other year groups have now begun their own preparations for the summer examinations. Parents have provided impressive support with almost every parent coming in to school earlier this term to hear about how they can help their child with revision.

Senior staff at Corpus Christi are continuing to provide support for senior leaders from other schools. This term colleagues from other schools have visited to hear about the school's highly effective systems for improving behaviour and attendance. At the end of a full day's visit in December, a local authority adviser reported that Corpus Christi was a calm and orderly school and said that she had seen no examples at all of poor behaviour anywhere in the school during the day.

Staff at Corpus Christi place great emphasis on ensuring that pupils achieve academic excellence, but this is not the only aspect of school life that is important. Corpus Christi has a strong Catholic ethos and supporting both pupils and staff in developing their faith is also a huge priority.

In response to Pope Francis' call to 'be merciful like the Father' pupils at Corpus Christi were invited to join a new 'Youth SVP' group who would work together to put their faith into practice both in school and in our wider community. There was huge response to this invitation with over eighty pupils joining. Since its formation members of our 'Youth SVP' group have been involved in supporting our whole school 'Easter Hampers' appeal for Lent, some have helped with Lenten Lunches at St. Clare's Parish and some have been helping out at the Little Sisters' Residential Care Home. As well as this, groups of pupils have recently begun attending Mass at the Carmelite Monastery each Friday morning.

At the beginning of Lent pupils reflected on the Corporal Works of Mercy and heard from Salvation Army Captain Alex about their work

in supporting families across Preston who find themselves in difficulty. During Lent pupils have been supporting the 'Easter Hamper' appeal by donating items of food to make hampers that will be distributed by the Salvation Army at Easter. During Holy Week pupils and staff transported over twenty five hampers to the Salvation Army's Food Bank.



On Thursday 17 March, with Bishop Michael's approval, the 'Mercy Bus', an initiative of the Diocese of Salford, visited Corpus Christi. Over a hundred pupils gathered together for a Service of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before going on board the bus to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. During morning break pupils who had already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation were

involved in providing encouragement to others to go on board for a blessing or to go to confession themselves.

During Holy Week pupils at Corpus Christi have gathered together to reflect on Our Lord's Passion and Death during special liturgies in preparation for Easter. On Wednesday during Holy Week staff and pupils gathered together for their end of term Masses celebrated by Father Darren. Throughout the summer term, Mass will be celebrated every Thursday at 3.15pm in the school's Chapel and parishioners from all of the school's feeder parishes are always welcome to join the school community for this Mass.

A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin. 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I was at a cash machine yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

I was driving this morning when I saw a parked RAC van. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself, that guy's heading for a breakdown.

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30am this morning, can you believe that, 2.30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

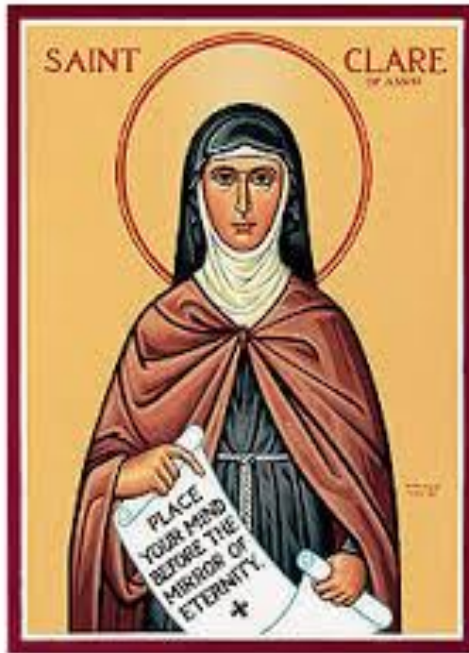
The wife was counting all the 5ps and 10ps out on the kitchen table when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, "She's going through the change."

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in the rear in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it! Just got back from my mate's funeral. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.

FROM THE ORDO

Our National Patron, St George, April 23rd; St Mark the Evangelist, April 25th. In the days following we honour: St Louise Marie de Montfort, St Catherine of Sienna, St Joseph the Worker, St Athanasius, The English Martyr's; Our Lady of Fatima, St Matthias, Apostle which leads us to The Solemnity of the Ascension and on to Pentecost. Also at this time we honour God in his saints: Bede the Venerable, St Philip Neri & St Augustine of Canterbury. Thus we bring the season of Easter to its conclusion and look forward to the summer feasts.



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Complete one of the forms to be found in
the church porch and hand in.

N.B. This applies to Tax Payers only. More details on form
in porch.