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## **Our first 50 years: 1981**

Ten years into the life of our school and parish, changes were afoot. Mrs Wright, who had been headteacher since the school opened, was granted early retirement after guiding the school for its first decade. She retired at the end of the summer holidays and was replaced on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1981 by Mr Joe Sweeney, who would be headteacher for many years to come. He and Fr Lakeland (who arrived the following year) would form a lengthy partnership in the life of our community. The first deputy head, Mr Doran, also finished at St Clare's, to take up a new appointment as headteacher of Blessed Sacrament school. Meanwhile in the parish Fr Peter Chappell arrived for a short stint assisting Fr Callon. He would be the first of many assistant priests who worked at St Clare's over the next 36 years. New heads, deputies and priests were not the only appointments of 1981: the school's log book records that on 20<sup>th</sup> May Fr Callon suggested to governors appointing a head boy and head girl for our school, a tradition which continues to this day.

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## **Today's Readings**

The Gospel this Sunday picks up exactly where we finished last weekend. Jesus is preaching at the synagogue in Nazareth, telling the people: "This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen." So far, His words have "won the gracious approval of all", but today people turn against Him when He implies that His mission will not be to the Jews only, but to all people. He reminds them of two episodes in Israel's history when God sent prophets to the Gentiles: when Elijah was sent to a widow at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-24) and when Elisha cured the Syrian leper, Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19). This universal mission of Jesus is also foreshadowed by the prophet Jeremiah, whose calling we hear of today. The Lord tells him that he has been appointed "as prophet to the nations", a mission for which the Lord chose him before his birth. Today's second reading is perhaps the most famous passage of the writings of St Paul: his masterful teaching on the meaning of love. This passage is a good examination of conscience for us! Do we live the sort of love of which Paul speaks? As he reminds us, it is this love which is the greatest gift of all.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: year 2, week 4**

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>FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Lenehan families
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		People of the Parish
	11:30am		Thanksgiving (MC)
	6pm		Holy Souls
Monday	9:15am	St John Bosco	Marie Howson RIP
Tuesday	7pm		Michael Bunyan RIP
Wednesday	9:15am	<b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	Lawrence Culshaw RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Priscilla Lepcha RIP
Friday	12noon		Bill Dawson RIP
Saturday	10am	St Agatha	Ian Jones RIP
	6pm (vigil)	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	Margaret Rainford RIP
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Teresa O'Neill RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Thanksgiving (Nidhin)

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Margaret Rainford, Josephine Edwards, Paul Seagraves, 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, 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:** Bertha Mills, Agnes Noblet, Agnes Allen, Lily Riley, Bronia Kacperek, Kevin McEvoy, Mary Teresa Ray, Alice Bee, Maureen Pike, Maureen Chessell, Gerard Regan, Frank Thompson.

**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.

**VATICAN SYNOD 2023:** The parish will hold gatherings to discuss the Synod questions on Tuesday evenings this week (1<sup>st</sup>) and next (8<sup>th</sup>) February at 7:30pm. A sheet with the questions and a brief explanation is available now in the narthex. Please meet in the church at the end of 7pm Mass. It is also possible to make a written submission to the questions, by email or hard copy. The deadline for responses is Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please pray that our work may be guided by the Holy Spirit.

**ACN PROJECT UPDATE:** Since the launch last October, we have raised around £6500 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. The Spanish class has also raised several hundred pounds, along with some merchandise sales and donations at the school's Advent service. The overall target is £21,000, so we have made an excellent start. We hope to be able to provide an update from the community in India in the near future.

**THE WORD OF GOD:** Leaflets to help us better engage with God's Word were given out last weekend. Some copies remain in the narthex and are free to take.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Please note that there will be no Holy Hour this month. Lectio Divina group will meet on Friday this week. The first Friday Holy Hour will resume in March.

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

**COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH:** Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. We ask that you continue to wear a face covering at Mass/other services, unless you are exempt. We will review our measures and guidance as the situation changes in the coming weeks.

**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, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7-9pm. All welcome, especially those who work in healthcare. Information and bookings: contact Cath Morgan [bha@lancastercatholicdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bha@lancastercatholicdiocese.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.

**FOOD BANK:** collection next weekend: 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> February.

**LAST WEEK:** At Mass: 314 (figures for individual Masses: 87/98/61/68) Collection: £636.35. Thank you for your presence and generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	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
	7pm	<b>Baptism Preparation (1)*</b>	Side chapel
	7:30pm	<b>Marriage Preparation (2)*</b>	Narthex
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	<b>Synod 2023 gathering (questions 1-5)</b>	Church
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
	10am	<b>Confirmation Preparation (3)*</b>	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 6 <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.