

## **Our first 50 years: 1974**

The school log book continues to give great insight into the day-to-day life of the school, covering big decisions and small incidents – everything from the visits of the nit nurse to the plans to the occasional need for a child to visit the Preston Royal Infirmary following an accident. One entry recalls that a local shopkeeper complained that the children were “putting plastic coins in a machine outside his shop”. The log book records that “the matter was dealt with and ought not to occur again.” Throughout 1974 plans were being drawn up to build phase three of the school, which was still less than three years old – a further sign of the rapid growth enjoyed in those early months. On 15<sup>th</sup> November 1974 the upper juniors visited the Harris Museum and Art Gallery “in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Lancaster Diocese.” It seems that some special exhibition was taken place to mark the anniversary – our diocese was founded in November 1924, with Lancaster chosen as the seat of the Bishop.

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## **Today's Readings**

This Sunday we begin a new liturgical year. Over the coming twelve months, on most Sundays we'll hear a reading from the Gospels of St Luke. Luke's account of the life of Jesus gives us many important treasures we don't find elsewhere (the story of the Annunciation, the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, the account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus). He also has a strong emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit, the power of God's mercy, the role of Mary, the importance of the poor in God's sight, the dignity of women and the spread of the Gospel to all peoples. In this first part of Advent we focus on the Second Coming of Jesus, something the Lord describes in the Gospel, encouraging us to have faith in His coming even when there are fearful signs around us. In the second reading, St Paul prays that the Christians in Thessalonika (and, by extension, all of us) may be blameless in the sight of God when Jesus returns. The first reading comes from the prophet Jeremiah, who speaks of God fulfilling His promise to make all things right, bringing honesty and integrity “across the land”.

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# MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year C; Weekdays: of Advent

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>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Thanksgiving for health and favours received
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Sp Int (Thanksgiving SC)
	11:30am		Kath Wilding RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		George Oldcorn RIP
Tuesday	7pm	<b>St Andrew</b>	Holy Souls
Wednesday	9:15am		Joan Skingsley RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Ints Marguerite Spencer
Friday	12noon	St Francis Xavier	Thanksgiving to St Rita
Saturday	10am		Bernadette Darwen RIP
	6pm (vigil)	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	People of the Parish
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Special Intention (TM)
	11:30am		Martin Malone RIP
	6pm		Mr Joseph RIP

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Margaret Dorgu, Mervyn Brock, Peter Harwood** 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-4pm; Friday 12:30pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-12noon.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Johanna Christian, Edgar Coupe, Fred Booth, Mary Kelly, Angelo Marcella, Anne Mulley, Ada Ellis, Joan Skingsley, Ann Thompson, Mary Slater, Frank Machin.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER:** We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

**FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR:** this Friday, 7pm in the church. All welcome.

**FIRST CONFESSIONS:** Please keep in your prayers children in our parish who have recently made their first confessions. We pray that they may experience the love and mercy of Jesus through this sacrament.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2022:** we will be running preparation for young people in school years 6-8 early in the new year, for them to be confirmed in May 2022. Registration forms and introductory letters are now available in the narthex.

**SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE:** Children in Years 5 and 6 will lead the St Clare's school Advent service this Wednesday at 5pm. It is not possible to attend in person, but you can watch the service live on our YouTube channel.

**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". We are hoping to sell 400 'bricks' at £30 each. Donations can be made in an envelope (simply marked 'buy a brick') and handed in at the presbytery or with the weekly collection.

**PARISH QUIZ NIGHT:** Thank you to everyone who took part in this very enjoyable evening. It was great to see parish social life reawakening after such a long gap.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Details of arrangements for Christmas Masses in our parish will be published next weekend.

**CRIB BLESSINGS:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7:30pm in the parish hall. Bring your home cribs to be blessed for the coming Christmas season.

**LITTLE SAPLINGS NURSERY** has places available for 3 and 4 year olds, starting in January; 15 and 30 hour funding accepted. See poster or call school on 787037.

**CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION:** New toys for children of all ages are needed for the Food Bank's Christmas appeal. The deadline is this Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> November). Please do not wrap gifts. Thank you for your generosity to this important cause.

**200 CLUB NOVEMBER WINNERS:** £143 no. 61 Paul McNeela; £86 no. 45 Nicklin family; £57 no. 42 Julie Noblet. Congratulations to this month's winners.

**DIOCESAN CHORAL DIRECTOR:** a new full-time role promoting singing for children in the diocese. See poster in narthex for full details. Closing date is this Friday.

**ADVENT RETREAT:** Open to Yr 10+. Details at [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/advent)

**FOOD BANK** collection next weekend: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> December.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** this weekend for Diocesan Poor Missions fund. This collection supports parish communities which cannot sustain themselves financially.

**LAST SUNDAY:** At Mass: 379 (figures for individual Masses: 64/93/81/71; NCW 70) Collection: £709.29. Thank you for your presence and your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
<b>Mo, Tu, Th</b>	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 (2)*</b>	Side chapel
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	<b>First Friday Holy Hour</b>	Church
Sat/Sun	At Mass	<b>Food Bank Collection</b>	House Porch
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates*	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class*	Parish Hall
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 5 <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.

**COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN CHURCH:** Please be mindful of those who would like to keep a safe distance from others. Face coverings should be worn when you are in church for any service (but not private prayer), unless you are exempt.

### The Bishops' Statement on attending Sunday Mass

*From the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales November meeting:*

“The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God’s holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ’s love. At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass. We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.”

Full statement: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>