

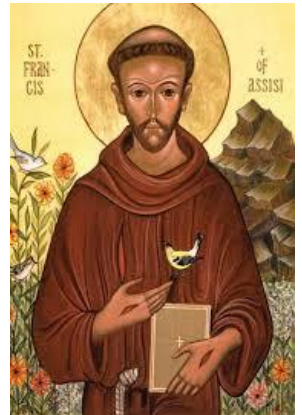


God: far above, or with us in our struggles?

Scripture reminds us that God is so much greater than we are: "As the heavens are high above the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways; my thoughts higher than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). How can we ever come close to Him? How could He ever understand us? As Christians, we have an answer to these vital questions: God has already come close to us, in Jesus Christ. He is truly God and truly human; He is Himself a bridge between heaven and earth. During His life on earth, Jesus – God-made-man – experienced what it is to live this life, with all its struggles and difficulties. As today's second reading teaches, He is capable "of feeling our weaknesses with us" and He "has been tempted in every way that we are", though He is without sin. Because of this, we are taught, we can be confident that we will receive mercy and grace from Him. He knows how hard it is for us.

FOCUS ON... Franciscan orders

St Francis of Assisi died in 1226, but already the orders he founded were spreading rapidly. As early as 1260 Franciscans friars were present in Preston (where Friargate now stands) and all over Europe communities inspired by Francis were springing up. There are several Franciscan orders: the First Order (men living by the rule of St Francis), the Second Order (women living by the rule of St Clare), as well as many lay people who live as 'Third Order' or 'Secular' Franciscans. Some branches of the Franciscan family are very old; others (like the Friars and Sisters of the Renewal, founded in the 1980s) are relatively new. All are inspired by the Poor Man of Assisi. From November, for a whole year, each week we will have a 'Franciscan of the Week' on the newsletter, enabling us to discover more about this incredible family of faith.



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MASSSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 146

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Week 29, Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 20 th Oct.	6pm (vigil)	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Hilda & Peter McNeela RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 21 st Oct.	9:30am		Katie Malone RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Sharon Carrahar RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Deceased Brothers Catenian Circle 14
Wednesday	9:15am		Henry and Kathleen Haydock RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Mabel Corry RIP
Friday	12noon		Jeff Poole RIP
Saturday 27 th Oct.	10am	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	James and Mary Morgan and Patricia Cowell RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Golden Wedding: Mike and Kath Holleran
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 28 st Oct.	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm	Frederick Newsham RIP	

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Anne Marie McCabe, Fr Jock Maley, Deacon Malcolm Green** and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. Mondays: Joyful; Wednesdays: Glorious; Thursdays: Luminous; Fridays: Sorrowful mysteries.

ST ANTHONY: October wall box donations go to our ACN Iraq appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Violet McEvoy, Ann Teehan, Molly Nixon, Anne Lawson, Winifred Knight, Henry Haydock, Mary Knight, Norman Booth, Jeff Poole, Robert Potts, George Jolly, Maureen Burns.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER: That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalised, and those who have no voice.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? Please speak to Fr Andrew for more information about how to join the preparation programme for this year.

ST CLARE STATUE: Thanks again for your generosity. Any outstanding sponsor money would be appreciated. The statue will be blessed on Monday 5th November, which is the 40th anniversary of the blessing of the church's Foundation Stone. There will be a short time of prayer at 6:45pm, followed by the annual barbecue and fireworks display. Please make a note of the date and come along!

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting on Sunday 11th November. The booklet for the coming month is "Prayer made simple". Copies available from Fr Andrew.

BLACKPOOL LIGHTS TRIP: This Friday. The coach will leave the car park at 6:15pm. Please bring money for the coach (£5 adults/£2.50 children) and money for your fish and chips on the way home. Places available only to those who have signed up.

ROSARY: On weekdays before/after Mass, we meditate on the different mysteries of the Rosary (rather than always the Mysteries of Light) – see previous page.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: Friday 16th November at 7pm in the parish hall. A chance to put your knowledge to the test! Tickets available from next weekend.

'ONE BODY' TALKS: Exploring the many faces of the Church in Preston, and fostering our unity as the one Body of Christ. Thursdays, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre. This week: the Syro-Malabar Church. For more information, see the poster, visit www.metanoiaproject.co.uk or call 07957 566741.

OLSE LADIES' GROUP: Meeting this Thursday at 8pm. A talk by Paul Dee called "My Entertaining Life"; cost £2; visitors welcome. Bookings are also being taken for the Christmas meal in Garstang on December 13th. £10 deposit is required.

VINE HOUSE ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING: at Our Lady & St Edward's, 24th October 10am to 12noon. Tombola, crafts, cards, cakes & refreshments. Admission £2.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Don't forget to let us know if you or a relative in hospital would like a visit from the chaplaincy team. In an emergency, always ask the ward staff to contact the on-call Catholic priest via the hospital switchboard.

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.

SPUC CAMPAIGN CARDS: In narthex. Please support this campaign to protect life.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: this Sunday (21st) for World Missions; next Sunday (28th) Sick and Retired Priests Fund.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 491; Collection: £949.20. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House porch
Sunday	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	9:45am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Narthex
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel
Friday	6:15pm	Blackpool Lights Trip	Details inside
Saturday	8:30am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
Sunday	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall

Advance Diary Dates

Thursday 1st November: All Saints' Day, Holy Day of Obligation

Friday 2nd November: All Souls' Day, Mass at 12noon

Tuesday 6th November: St Clare's School open afternoon, 2-6pm

Tuesday 13th November: Annual parish Mass for the dead, 7pm

PARISH ASSISI PILGRIMAGE: 27th May – 1st June 2019

Thanks to those who signed up earlier in the year. We still have some places! Are you thinking of coming? Please register your interest soon – if we do not fill all the places from the parish, we will need to offer places to other parishes, but we'd like St Clare's parishioners to have first refusal. Even if you can't commit at this stage, speak to Fr Andrew to register interest or to find out more.



Preston Orpheus Choir

Saturday 3rd November at 7:30pm, a concert at St Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge (PR5 6EP), with the theme of "Peace & Celebration", commemorating the end of WW1. Music includes Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb" & Elgar's "Give unto the Lord" along with pieces by Parry, Byrd, Ireland, Vaughan Williams & Finzi. Tickets £10 (under 18s free) on the door or from 01772 735197.