

**St. Clare's, Fulwood.**

# PARISH MAGAZINE



**SPRING 2015**

## LENT – A SPIRITUAL GYMNASIUM!

Christmas and New Year are well and truly behind us and, for a few weeks, we stepped into the ‘Ordinary Time of the Year,’ *the wearing of the green!* But we have plunged headlong into the holy season of Lent and, as the title above suggests, this is a wonderful time to gear up spiritually. Just as Gym membership increases in the period after Christmas (New Year resolutions and all that) so too, Lent is a time for stepping up to the line and becoming spiritually fit. Later in the Magazine there will be more about what we can do during this period.

One of the most important things we do at this time of year is to help those preparing to enter the Church to get ready. This year we have two catechumens (unbaptized) who will be received at the Easter Vigil. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Feb they went to the Cathedral in Lancaster for the ‘Rite of Election,’ nothing to do with voting and everything to do with being greeted by the bishop and officially accepted for entry into the Church come Easter. Please pray for Kelvin & Charlotte.

Other Sacramental preparation is going on too, both the First Communion class and the Confirmation Group are well underway and will be complete towards the end of Spring.

This year the main Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held in our church and there was a good turnout.

Fulwood and Broughton churches have an Ecumenical Covenant set up in the late 1980s. That covenant has thus far stood the test of time but it is under review at the moment to see how, if at all, it needs to adapt to the present day.

One of our two big fundraising ventures at the moment is the Porch Extension Fund; we have explained previously why we need to do this, the only obstacle is the cost! We still need to raise £100K. It looks like being a slow process and, of course, the longer it takes probably the more it will cost.

The other fundraiser is our Hodovo Project but more of that further on. Our neighbouring parish has experienced quite a change, St Mary’s at Fernyhalgh has bid farewell to Fr Hoole who has been there a number of years and is well over the retirement age. The Parish & Shrine has been entrusted to two priests from the Institute of the Holy Family Fathers and Brothers of the Youth who have just arrived from Nigeria.

Quite what they will make of the Lancashire weather and this most Lancashire of Shrines remains to be seen; we bid them a warm welcome.

The Neo Catechumenal Way which is organised in the parish continues its community life. Each week a group prepares for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word which takes place on Wednesday and a second group prepares for the Eucharist which is celebrated on Saturday evening. Each year, the Community offers a Catechesis – a series of talks – on the faith. This year it will begin just after Easter and last for eight weeks, two different talks given each week Monday & Thursday. It is led by the priests of the parish and a lay team. This is a refreshing and, sometimes, challenging look at the faith and encouragement to go deeper into it.

Another Community which is in our sights is Cenacolo. This Community helps young men to change their lives. These men have often been enthralled to drugs or other forms of addiction. Each week a supply of food and other goods is donated by parishioners in the box in the church porch and taken to the young men who live from *Divine Providence*. This year they celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the House in the UK. The Bishop will celebrate Mass there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm – all invited. But the main celebrations will be the first weekend in May especially the 2<sup>nd</sup> when the lads will welcome all friends, former members of the Community and the parents and families of the men presently in the House. Again, all are welcome.

From Cenacolo to Hodovo; we have been supporting the little community in the former refugee settlement for some years now. Last year a group of our young people support by adults went to Hodovo and painted the little primary school. At the beginning of winter we sent out our aid for winter fuel. At present we are busy raising funds and awareness in readiness for some of our young people, once again, to go out there in summer and work on another project, at the same time taking in the Youth Festival at the nearby Medjugorje Shrine. So not only will the young folk work with and for their Bosnian counterparts but will also experience the universality of the Church when young people from a great number of nations converge on the Shrine for the Festival. It is also hoped to be able to sponsor some of

the young people from the settlement to come to Preston on an exchange visit.

Lourdes, we must not forget Lourdes. This year we are sponsoring three young people to go as helpers to this French Shrine to aid the sick and elderly.

The Parish Pastoral Council, a group of men and women parishioners, meets every six weeks and discusses topics relevant to the parish at the time. One of the subjects they have been dealing with of late is broadcasting Mass via the internet. This sprung out of the fact that the patients at The Royal Preston Hospital can no longer hear Mass broadcast over the Hospital Radio. This led to engineers trying to set up a system from St Clare's for this purpose, but to date there has been little or no progress. Considering not only the patients in the hospital but also our own parishioners who are housebound and, indeed, many others too, the thought of broadcasting Mass from St Clare's via the internet was mooted. It is possible, there is, of course, a cost attached: an initial capital outlay for the equipment necessary and then a monthly or yearly sum to the company who would host and 'distribute' our broadcast. This is not a unique step, other churches throughout the world do the same thing. One matter that caused discussion was the fact that some of those attending Mass at St Clare's would appear on the broadcast. The PPC was not sure how people would take to it. As far as they are aware, this has not been a cause for concern in other places. But all opinions would be welcome.

## **NEWS FROM ST CLARE'S SCHOOL**

Mrs. Flett is retiring from full time teaching at Easter this year and will return to school on a part-time basis for 2 days a week after the Easter holidays. The Governors have appointed a new teacher for Class 5: William Parkinson who will also start after the Easter holidays.

Mr. McKeown is also retiring this at the end of this academic year in July. The Governors are also in the process of appointing a new Deputy Head teacher who will start in September 2015.

Mrs. Flett has been at St. Clare's for 30 years and Mr. McKeown for 32 years. They have contributed vastly to the good of the school.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February the school celebrated a *Safer Internet Day* along with hundreds of schools across the country. This year's theme is 'Let's create a better internet together'. Parents were invited to the assembly at 9.15 a.m. Throughout the day the children took part in a variety of activities encouraging them to consider how they can create a better internet for all. As part of the celebrations the children came to school as characters from internet games, such as cbeebies or minecraft!

## **FROM THE CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL - CHRIST IS PRESENT TO HIS CHURCH**

Christ is always present to his Church, especially in the actions of the liturgy. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, in the person of the minister (it is the same Christ who formerly offered himself on the cross that now offers by the ministry of priests) and most of all under the Eucharistic species. He is present in the sacraments by his power, in such a way that when someone baptizes, Christ himself baptizes. He is present in his word, for it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. Finally, he is present when the Church prays and sings, for he himself promised: Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.

Indeed, in this great work which gives perfect glory to God and brings holiness to men, Christ is always joining in partnership with himself his beloved Bride, the Church, which calls upon its Lord and through him gives worship to the eternal Father.

It is therefore right to see the liturgy as an exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ, in which through signs addressed to the senses man's sanctification is signified and, in a way proper to each of these signs, made effective, and in which public worship is celebrated in its fullness by the mystical body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the head and by his members.

Accordingly, every liturgical celebration, as an activity of Christ the priest and of his body, which is the Church, is a sacred action of a pre-eminent kind. No other action of the Church equals its title to power or its degree of effectiveness.

In the liturgy on earth we are given a foretaste and share in the liturgy of heaven, celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem, the goal of our pilgrimage, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, as minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. With the whole company of heaven we sing a hymn of praise to the Lord; as we reverence the memory of the saints, we hope to have some part with them, and to share in their fellowship; we wait for the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, until he, who is our life, appears, and we appear with him in glory.

By an apostolic tradition taking its origin from the very day of Christ's resurrection, the Church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day, the day that is rightly called the Lord's day. On Sunday the Christian faithful ought to gather together, so that by listening to the word of God and sharing in the Eucharist they may recall the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God who has given them a new birth with a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Lord's day is therefore the first and greatest festival, one to be set before the loving devotion of the faithful and impressed upon it, so that it may be also a day of joy and of freedom from work. Other celebrations must not take precedence over it, unless they are truly of the greatest importance, since it is the foundation and the kernel of the whole liturgical year.

### **MUSINGS BY LOUISE MENSCH – FORMER MP**

I am a divorced and remarried Catholic. I attend Mass every week. When my children want me to take them up to Holy Communion, I walk along behind them and cross my arms over my breast. My youngest is particularly keen on going up for a blessing, although he wants to know when he can get 'the bread'. I say, 'When you understand why it isn't "the bread".'

It has never occurred to me to present myself for Communion when I have not sought — for various reasons that I won't discuss here — to have my first marriage annulled. I know I am not a good Catholic, and I am living a life that the Church considers to be adulterous. Yet I am in good spirits, as I hope in God's mercy. But I do not presume upon it. My Catechism says that is a further mortal sin, as would be the unworthy reception of Holy Communion.

People in my state are explicitly encouraged, in the Catechism, to attend church, and to make a spiritual communion, as I do each week. I have the hope that one day I will be in a state of grace and able to receive Holy Communion again. I hope that, despite my on-going sin, God nonetheless hides me in the shadow of his wings; that Mary, hope of sinners, has her cloak of mercy cast about me. I am a poor Catholic but I am also a believing Catholic. Yet there is a faction within the Church that evidently considers 'believing Catholic' to be a hopelessly old-fashioned clique that they must get shot of, alongside lace mantillas and kneeling at the Communion rail.

Holy Communion, for most of the bishops of England and Wales, appears to have become Protestant by default. Instead of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist — a presence we should tremble to receive at the best of times — Communion is now a sign, a symbol, a mere shared meal, an 'expression of community'.

## WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The name "Lent" is from the Middle English *Lenten* and Anglo-Saxon *Lenten*, meaning spring; its more primitive ecclesiastical name was the "forty days," *tessaracoste* in Greek. The number "forty" is first noted in the Canons of Nicaea (A.D. 325), likely in imitation of Jesus' fast in the desert before His public ministry (with Old Testament precedent in Moses and Elijah). By the fourth century, in most of the West, it referred to six days' fast per week of six weeks (Sundays were excluded); in the seventh century the days from Ash Wednesday through the First Sunday were added to make the number forty.

### ***When are Lent and Easter in 2015?***

In 2015, Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday is April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Holy Saturday is April 4<sup>th</sup>, and Easter Sunday is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Fasting and abstinence***

Days of Abstinence: No meat can be eaten on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays during Lent. This applies to all Catholics 14 and older.

Days of Fast: Only one full meal is permitted on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for Catholics between 18 and 59. Two smaller meals are

permitted, but the small meals should not equal a second full meal. Drinking coffee, tea and water between meals is allowed. Snacks between meals are not allowed.

### ***What are you doing for Lent this year?***

Ask Catholics what they're doing for Lent this year, and they'll probably tell you that they are giving up a favourite food, a favourite pastime or anything else they really love but isn't essential in their lives.

Giving up something for Lent fosters self-discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. If you're giving up something for Lent, that's great. But think also about the possibility of doing something positive to bolster your spiritual life and make the world a better place. Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your faith, strengthen your spiritual life or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish or in your community.

- Begin each morning with the prayer: "Lord, I offer you this day, and all that I think, and do, and say."
- Attend Daily Mass as often as possible.
- Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the [Rosary](#).
- Make the [Stations of the Cross](#) at home or in a parish celebration.
- Read [Scripture](#) for 10 minutes every day.
- Pray the Seven Penitential Psalms (Psalm [6](#), [31](#), [50](#), [101](#), [129](#) and [142](#)).
- Spend some time in quiet prayer before the [Blessed Sacrament](#).
- Abstain from meat for an extra day or two each week.
- Listen to spiritual music or a spiritual speaker.
- Keep a Lenten journal with your spiritual insights, special intentions, people you want to pray for, hurts and disappointments that you want to offer up, and progress reports on your Lenten resolutions.

### ***Stations of the Cross***

Telling the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus was an important part of the early Christian's experience. In the late fourth century, people began making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, where they would follow the path that Jesus took to Calvary. During the Middle Ages, when outbreaks of war made it impossible for people to travel to the Holy Land, people created a [Via Dolorosa](#), or "Sorrowful Way," in their towns and villages. They erected paintings or sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ along a processional route or inside a church. By the



mid-18th century, the number of stations was fixed at 14 and the devotion known as the Stations of the Cross, also called the Way of the Cross, became widespread.

### ***10 tips for making the season more meaningful***

Slow Down - Set aside 10 minutes a day for silent prayer or meditation. It will revitalize your body and your spirit.

Read a good book - You could choose the life of a saint, a spiritual how-to, an inspirational book or one of the pope's new books.

Be kind - Go out of your way to do something nice for someone else every day.

Get involved - Attend a Lenten lecture or spiritual program.

Volunteer at your parish - Whether it's the parish fish fry, cleaning the church or helping with the food drive, it will give you a chance to help others.

Reach out - Invite an inactive Catholic to come with you to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Pray - Especially for people you don't like and for people who don't like you.

Tune out - Turn off the television and spend quality time talking with family members or friends.

Clean out closets - Donate gently used items to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### ***Bless me, Father, for I have sinned...***

If you haven't gone to confession in a while, Lent is the perfect time to reconcile yourself with God and the Church. Most parishes have communal penance services with prayers and Scripture readings, followed by the opportunity for individual confession (a necessity for absolution of mortal sins). Or you can also make a private appointment with a priest.

Preparation for confession should include an examination of conscience, which means you think back on sins you have committed since your last confession.

What happens during confession depends on the priest and the person. Most people still start with the formula: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (state the number of months or years) since my last confession."

If you can't remember the words or you don't recall how long it's been, don't worry. Just tell the priest it's been a long time, and he will guide you through the process.

What you will experience is the healing gift of God's love, the chance to start over with a clean conscience, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

### ***Families can make Lenten memories***

Lent offers opportunities to pass on your faith to children. Here are some ideas for making Lenten memories:

Pray together. Even if it's just an Our Father or Hail Mary, it unites the family.

Let each family member mention one person or problem that they would like to pray for in a special way at dinnertime.

Take the kids grocery shopping for the poor. Let them help you bring the food to your parish pantry or the local food bank.

Let children light a candle at church for people throughout the world who are sick or hungry.

Sample Lenten food favourites, such as hot cross buns or pretzels. If you're really adventurous, check the Internet for recipes and make your own!

Check your diocesan newspaper for the location of a Passion play. Take family members and friends.

### ***What almsgiving really means***

Giving alms has always been an important part of Lent. For many people, it means giving money to Catholic charities or some other good cause. But the concept of almsgiving goes much deeper. It is our response to the teachings of Jesus that encourage us to reach out to people in need—not just with our money—but with our time and our talents. Today we might call it '[stewardship](#)'.

Lent gives us the opportunity to cultivate a spirit of generosity. It gives us a chance to share what we have and who we are with other people. It puts us in communion with others and helps us understand that we are all members of the Body of Christ. Think carefully about how you will share your time, your talents and your treasure during Lent. Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

## THROUGH THE REGISTERS

We send our congratulations to the families of the following who were baptised in the parish recently: Jacob Pantin, Scarlett Kelly. We offer our condolences to the families of Francis Sherridan, Baby Isaac Jeory, Mary McAteer, Peter Butler, Ada Ellis, Ann Mulley, Stanley Turpin, Baby Zachary Wilkinson, Elizabeth Moore, Lily Riley, Eileen Mundy, Agnes Allen & Brian Winterbottom.

## FROM THE DIOCESE AND OTHER SOURCES

APPOINTMENTS: Canon Paul Embery as Secretary to the College of Consultors and Father Chris Cousens as Clergy Safeguarding Advisor. A NEWLY-MERGED PARISH: From the first public Celebration of Mass on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014, the new parish of Pope Saint John XXIII was formed (by canonical decree) from the former parishes of English Martyrs with St Ignatius, Preston and the Parish of Christ the King, Preston.

NEWLY-MERGED DEANERY: The Lakes and Furness Deaneries Canon Seamus Flannery VG to be interim Dean for the initial transition period.

ST IGNATIUS, PRESTON: On January 11<sup>th</sup> it was announced that St Ignatius (closed since 2 December 2014), has been secured for the future by my installing in it the local Syro-Malabar Catholic community from Kerala in South East India – a vibrant and young community belonging to this venerable and ancient Particular Church sui iuris which cherishes its full communion with the Pope but at the same time its own rich patrimony, cultural expressions, laws and liturgy. The former English parish community at St Ignatius had been merged for some years with English Martyrs and more recently that parish was merged further into the newly-created Parish of St John XXIII, Preston.

<p>See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p>
--

## FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE

**Candle Lit Carol Service:** It has become somewhat of a tradition to have a pre-Christmas Carol Service in church. This year was a combined effort with parishioners and school children from St Clare's. The church was bedecked with candles and the Service was conducted by candlelight; the scripture telling the story of Christmas was proclaimed and interspersed with carols also telling that same story. Prayers were offered for the Church and the world and a collection was taken for our Hodovo Project. The (nearly) all repaired to the Church Hall for 'seasonal refreshments.'

**Christmas Afternoon:** What to do after a hearty lunch and the Queen's Speech? Well, the answer in St Clare's Presbytery, where the young men in the Cenacolo Community were entertained to Christmas lunch, was to retire to the church for a Holy Hour before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

As the accompanying pictures on the website showed, the group from Cenacolo spent time in song and prayer and recitation of the rosary. In the present group there are some musicians who led the music and singing. The Gospel of the Day was proclaimed and spontaneous prayers invoking the Holy Spirit to come were made. Prayers too, of thanksgiving were offered by these young men, many of whom have come out of the darkness of addiction into the light of grace. The atmosphere of joy was quite palpable though, of course, it was tinged by a certain sadness of not being with family at this time of year.

And then back to the Presbytery for tea and cake!

**Boxing Day – The Feast of St Stephen 2014:** Nearly half of our Altar Servers were able to make the Mass on the feast of St Stephen, the patron saint of altar servers.

The parish organises the Guild of St Stephen and, December 26th is one of those days when newer servers, those who have served for 12 months, can be enrolled into the Guild. It is also the day when all servers are asked to make a recommitment to their ministry. This all took place within the context of the Mass with many parents and parishioners lending them their support.

St Stephen - Pray for us.

**Happy New Year:** The clergy and 150 parishioners gathered at noon on New Year's Day to begin 2015 by seeking God's blessing by celebrating Holy Mass to honour our Blessed Lady, Mother of God. In his homily the priest reminded us that, just like Mary, we all call to be 'God Bearers' (Theotokos).

Like Mary we are called to make Jesus present in the society in which we live: at home, at work and when we socialise. He asked us to pray for the grace to be the blessing that God calls us to be, to make a difference in our society by presenting it to Jesus Christ.

After the homily the congregation and clergy prayed a prayer of Consecration to Mary:

**Confirmation Group:** The photographs that accompanied this short article showed the boys and girls at their Confirmation Class.

They are preparing for the day when they receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament. They are ably led by the Confirmation Catechists: Eileen, Brenda, Angie, Sian & Michael. Please keep them all in your prayers.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** The churches in the Fulwood & Broughton Churches Together Covenant joined together in worship at St Clare's at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The various Church leaders together with Fr Loughran and others joined in led the Service of Scripture, Prayer & Song centring on the theme provided for the Week of Prayer: The Woman at the Well (Jn. 4. 1- 44). 'Was it not necessary to walk through Samaria.'

**2015 Sacramental Preparation – Part 2!:** The New Year has arrived and the boys and girls who prepared for and celebrated First Confession last Advent, have now begun their course of preparation for First Holy Communion due to take place in April.

On Sunday morning prior to the 9.30am Mass they signed their Enrolment Certificate stating that they would do their very best in the forth-coming course. The certificate was also signed by a parent to promise that the home will provide encouragement and support. The certificates came prepared with the signature of Mrs Cywinski the Chief Catechist and the Parish Priest who, again promised that the catechists and the parish would do all that is necessary to support these children. At the beginning of Mass the boys and girls were called forward and presented to the congregation who were asked to support

these girls and boys with their prayers in the weeks ahead. Before the children were dismissed to the Children's Liturgy the whole congregation, led by the priest prayed over the children.

**Thou shalt not loose!** But not everyone can be a winner, even so, 130 people packed into St Clare's Parish Hall for the *Family Prize Bingo*.

So many people had been generous in sending in prizes (in many cases unwanted Christmas presents!) for the Bingo. As usual at this time of year, we are fundraising to send some of our young people as helpers to Lourdes, and some to our Bosnia Project and the Medjugorje Youth Festival. The night's proceeds will help us in this task.

**Platinum Jubilee:** Seventy years of Religious Profession was celebrated in church at the Sunday evening Concelebrated Mass when we gave thanks for the religious life of Sr Anne Goodman of the La Sagesse Congregation (Daughters of Wisdom).

Sr Anne was professed in 1945 and is still going strong 70 years later working, as she does, as an Assistant Chaplain at the Royal Preston Hospital. St Clare's church was full for the Mass of Thanksgiving; many of Sr Anne's 'sisters' from La Sagesse were present in the congregation as were many others from many different walks of life who have worked with Sr Anne over many years. After Mass many repaired to the Parish Hall were for a reception in which Sr Anne's life was pictorially presented via a PowerPoint display. A special cake was cut and a good time was had by all! Ad multos annos.

**Candlemas:** The Monday morning Mass was turned into a more solemn celebration than usual to honour the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. In the Gospel for the day we hear the old man Simeon proclaim the Christ Child to be the, 'Light to enlighten the Gentiles.' Thus we are assured that Jesus came for everyone and not simply for the Jewish people. But it is that reference to light that gives special significance to the day. Over the ages the '*lights*' (candles) to be used in church in the following 12 months are blest on this day – hence Candlemas.

**Discipleship – A new way of living:** Charles Whitehead is one of the leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in this country, a former president of the International Charismatic movement and a well-known speaker and author. He came to Preston to lead one of the periodic North West Days of Renewal, the title of which is above.

He led two sessions, one in the morning and one after lunch. Seventy or so people gathered at St Clare's to take part in the Renewal Day. The music was led by Ruth White; the day was punctuated by Mass at lunchtime and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament later in the afternoon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was made available as was a prayer ministry. It was a most uplifting day, one that brought us closer to Jesus and one that gave us some new ideas about our role as disciples of the Lord.

**Indian Night:** Most parishes these days have a wide ethnic mix. St Clare's is no different. We have parishioners from Africa, Asia, North & South America as well as various parts of Europe. On Sunday evening our Indian parishioners treated us to a veritable feast of food and culture.

We were looking for a new way of raising funds towards our church porch extension, and the idea of an 'Indian Night' germinated. It was readily taken up by some of the Indian families in the parish who not only cooked and served an excellent variety of food but also with great generosity funded it. We had catered for seventy but in the event far more arrived and, miraculously all 'ate as much as they wanted.' And it was not just food that was on offer it was culture too. Each week the Indian Dance Group rehearses in the parish hall. On Sunday evening they performed for the assembly and received rapturous applause. We were treated too, to some individual dance interpretations. It was a truly enjoyable night and much needed funds were raised for our project.

The Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Lancaster was the venue for the **Rite of Election** (RoE) which takes place each year at the beginning of Lent.

Beginning usually around September, those wishing to enter into the Catholic Church, undergo a course of instruction. At St Clare's this is led by the clergy and a team journeying with the enquirers. This year two people have been on the course and a third, who has completed most of the course elsewhere before recently moving north, has joined us.

The RoE conducted by the Bishop is the official welcome to the final stage of preparation. Those present fall into two groups: Candidates - those who are already Christians and who now wish to enter the Catholic Church; and the Catechumens - those who have never

received baptism. At the Easter Vigil, Charlotte & Kelvin will receive Baptism at St Clare's whilst Carol will be formally received (but back in Essex!) We pray for all of them.

### **A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF**

The biggest lie I tell myself is ..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller!

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet!

I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

Lord grant me the strength to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can & the friends to post my bail when I finally snap!

I don't have grey hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week.

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

Oops! Did I roll my eyes out loud?

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Chocolate comes from cocoa which is a tree ... that makes it a plant which means ... chocolate is Salad!!!

*Cruel but amusing:*

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure. - Clarence Darrow



"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."

- Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second .... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."

- Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."

- Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." - Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."

- Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

- Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."

- Groucho Marx

## **FROM THE ORDO**

The Penitential season of Lent is already upon us. In March the Church offers us two important feasts: St Joseph the Spouse of our Blessed Lad; he is the Patron of the Universal Church and is celebrated on March 19<sup>th</sup>, swiftly followed by the Solemnity of the Annunciation. These two feast are a prelude to the events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the greatest feast of them

all: The Resurrection celebrated on Easter Sunday. The Second Sunday of Easter is now declared Divine Mercy Sunday. Then we turn once again to the saints: St Bernadette, April 16<sup>th</sup>; our National Patron, St George, April 23<sup>rd</sup>; St Mark the Evangelist, April 25<sup>th</sup>. 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. In the week between Pentecost and Trinity 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.

## **Holy Week and Easter Services.**

### **Palm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** (Blessing of Palms at all Masses)

6pm (Sat Vigil) Holy Mass  
9.30am & 6pm Holy Mass

### **Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

11.30am Chrism Mass – Lancaster Cathedral  
7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Watching before the Altar of Repose until 10pm

### **Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)

10.00am Stations of the Cross &  
Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross  
3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion

### **Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

11 to 12 noon Confessions  
8.30pm Vigil and First Mass of Easter

### **Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

9.30am & 6pm Holy Mass

# Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



*Proclaim '15* has five parts:

## **1. PREPARATION**

Parish small group sessions – three evangelisation-themed sessions will be provided for download from mid-January 2015.

## **2. PRAYER**

Network of prayer vigils - parishes are invited to host an evening of prayer on 11 July 2015.

## **3. EVENT**

National Catholic Evangelisation Conference - on **11 July 2015 in central Birmingham** for 850 evangelisation representatives from across England and Wales. There is a quota of places allocated to each

diocese, with live streaming also being explored to potentially enable every member of the Catholic community to participate.

#### **4. LEGACY**

Local events - templates will be provided online to enable dioceses, deaneries and parishes to have their own *Proclaim '15* gatherings in autumn 2015.

#### **5. RESOURCES**

New Evangelisation resources – these will also be made available as a fruit of the National Conference to equip parish evangelisation in autumn 2015.

[www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15)

