

## 2005

Saturday 1 January 2005

Father Barry Matthews said the 1100 Mass and Father Colin OSB (from Brownedge) said the 1800 Mass in Father Gordon's absence. Only 45 people attended – ?New Year's Day hangover?

The figure given for those killed in Boxing Day's Tsunami is officially 219,862 dead and missing. 408,155 houses damaged and destroyed and 1,727,223 people misplaced

Sunday 2 January 2005

Father David OSB from Brownedge said the 1000 Mass in Father Gordon's absence. The Music Group played – without playing a single Christmas Carol!

The monthly Second Collection this weekend should have been for "Our Lady's Ground Maintenance". However in light of the SE Asia disaster it was held for CAFOD to assist with the victims of the Tsunami. Despite not having advance warning of this collection the Parish contributed over £1,190. Through other contributions a total of £1,350 was sent to CAFOD.

Monday 3 January 2005

Abbot Timothy OSB came for lunch.

Saturday 8 January 2005

Violent Gales in the North, The City of Carlisle, which was flooded, was cut off from both Rail and Road access. The Priory and Church and our neighbours to the East in Lancaster Lane were without power from 0840 until 1710. It was just possible to say the 1800 Mass in Church – although contingency plans had been made for the eventuality of no power. Parbold and Newburgh were without power from 1900 until 2100 – but not the Priory.

Friday 14 January 2005

(see *Sunday 7 November 2004*) The harasser has purchased another mobile 'phone with which to telephone the Priory – seeing that the harasser's BT number and first mobile 'phone numbers have been barred by BT from ☎463248.

Sunday 16 January 2005

The newly reformed Choir should have sung at the 1000 Mass today but have once again fallen by the wayside. Choir rehearsals had been very poorly attended since its re-formation.

Parishioners organised a Justice and Peace Service in the evening in the Village Hall. It was attended by 20 people, half from Christ Church and half from Our Lady's – although the purpose of having the Service in the Village Hall was to bring in the "unchurched".

Tuesday 18 January 2005

(see *Sunday 7 November 2004*). A Doctor in the Health Centre stated that there was absolutely nothing the Doctors could do about the unstable harasser. The Doctor and one of the Deacons say that the only solution is to take the matter to the Courts. Both Father Abbot and Father Gordon are opposed to this line of action on Pastoral grounds. So far the Archbishop has not been informed of the saga.

Friday 20 January 2005

According to the *Liber Defunctorum* today's Funeral was the 1000<sup>th</sup> recorded at Our Lady and All Saints – *certainly eoe*. To date there have been 1248 Baptisms and 416 Marriages.

The Parish Account with the HSBC Bank has been overdrawn since 3 March 2004 – but without cost due to being offset with the Archdiocese of Liverpool. On 3 December 2004 this overdraft reached -£42,000, although permission had been obtained from the Liverpool Archdiocese, backed by the Abbot and his Council, to go to -£60,000. Today a cheque for £45,000, taken from Donations and VAT refunds for the Church refurbishment in 2003, was transferred from Deposit to Current Account to clear the overdraft.

Sunday 23 January 2005

The annual Church Unity Service was held, in the afternoon, in Christ Church Parbold. There were 40 in the Congregation, along with 5 Musicians and 4 on the Sanctuary – matching the attendance at Christ Church Newburgh in 2003, but less than the 80+ at OLAS last year,

Monday 24 January 2005

17 Confirmation Candidates – including one who “never goes to Mass on Sundays” attended in the Priory for the commencement of the 2005 Confirmation course.

Tuesday 1 February 2005

The first Daffodil appeared (2004 = 13 Feb, 2003 = 27 Feb, 2002 = 20 Feb)

Saturday 5 February 2005

11 of the 17 Confirmation Candidates were presented in Church at the 1800 Mass. Of the 6 missing 2 were in Yorkshire and 1 was in Wales.

Douglas Music Society presented a recital by the Haydock Male Voice Choir in our Church., About 50 members of the Choir sang to around 130 in the audience – tickets cost £9 for an adult (£8 for pensioners and £3 for children).

Sunday 6 February 2005

18 out of 22 Children making their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (two years) and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion this year were presented at the 1000 Mass. This year Reconciliation will precede Holy Communion hence two years of Children will make their 1<sup>st</sup> Confessions this year – those who made 1<sup>st</sup> Communions last year and those who will make their 1<sup>st</sup> Communions this year.

Wednesday 9 February 2005

An early Ash Wednesday. The School came to Mass at 1200. The evening Mass was held at 1930 (in 2004 and 2003 it was at 1900) to see if more would attend. 1930 provided the lowest turn-out since 2001.

Tuesday 15 February 2005

Dom Cuthbert Madden OSB was elected eighth Abbot of Ampleforth in succession to Abbot Timothy Wright OSB whose eight year term of office had terminated. The Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation appointed Abbot Timothy titular Abbot of Westminster.

Monday 21 February 2005

After the warmest January in 15 years a snowy arctic spell has descended on the country – especially in the east.

Monday 7 March 2005

16 children from the School made their First Confession at a Service held at 1400 today. Father Barry Matthews and Father Kenneth Smith assisted Father Gordon. The children came from two academic years, those who were making their 1<sup>st</sup> Communions this year, and those who made their 1<sup>st</sup> Communions last year – see 6 February for the reasons.

Thursday 10 March 2005

Father Barry Matthews began saying the weekday Mass due to Father Gordon's absence for a week. Father Kenneth Smith will say Masses on Monday and Tuesday and a Mill Hill Missionary, making an annual Red Box appeal, will say the weekend Masses.

Tuesday 15 March 2005

The arctic spell, which had started on 21 February and had gone right through central Europe, finally disappeared.

Monday 21 March 2005

Due to Holy Week the Feast of St Benedict is transferred to 5 April.

The Lenten Penance Service was held – at which 47 were present – a considerable improvement from Advent's 27 people. Father Barry Matthews assisted Father Gordon in giving absolution.

Sunday 27 March 2005

Easter Sunday. The attendance at last night's Vigil Service was the lowest ever recorded – 67. The attendance at Sunday morning Mass was also the lowest recorded – 189. The low attendance on Sunday could have been as a result of the Clocks going forward during the night. Attendances at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were average.

Thursday 31 March 2005

Two Parishioners and a Sister from Notre Dame Convent attended the blessing of Abbot Cuthbert at Ampleforth.

Saturday 2 April 2005

At 2037 BST His Holiness Pope John Paul II died after being Pope for 26 years. The weekly Parish News-letter was altered to carry an Obituary photograph of the Pope on the front and to include him amongst the prayers for the dead.

Sunday 3 April 2005

The 1000 Mass had an additional 50% present – and it was said for the repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II.

Tuesday 5 April 2005

Father Barry Matthews said the morning Mass and will do so throughout the week due to Father Gordon's absence on annual Retreat.

Friday 8 April 2005

The funeral of Pope John Paul II in Rome. Father Barry said the 0915 Mass, for Pope John Paul, at which the School was present.

Wednesday 13 April 2005

The bi-monthly Clergy Fraternal met at The Priory. Originally attended by Clergy from Christ Church Parbold and Our Lady's, the number has now risen to include Christ Church Newburgh, Elim Congregational Church and the Methodist Chaplain at HMP Wymott who lives in Parbold.

Tuesday 19 April 2005

At 1700 BST the Bells of St Peter's Rome rang to announce the election of a new Pope. Forty-five minutes later it was announced that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had been elected as Pope Benedict XVI. The Church Bell of Our Lady and All Saints rang from 1720 until 1800 and was much appreciated by the Convent and local residents giving them warning to switch on their Television sets to hear the announcement of the new Pope's name.

Friday 22 April 2005

15 teenagers, the Confirmation candidates, went to Ampleforth for the weekend for a Retreat which experienced a whole day in the life of a Monk. Father Gordon, Deacon David and three young teacher Catechists were also in attendance.

Sunday 8 May 2005

10 children from the School made their First Holy Communions. This weekend over 400 people were at Church – a record breaking 130 at the Saturday evening Mass (record breaking since 1999 apart from Presentations in 2003 and Confirmations in 2003).

An extra Mass was said at 1200 by Father Philip Smith for the Belmont NW Association. Father Philip is a former Monk of Belmont and now serves in the Lancaster Diocese, his parents used to reside in the Parish

Sunday 15 May 2005

Bishop Vincent Malone conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 15 candidates at the 1000 Mass – which was finished by 1110. Coffee and Biscuits were held in the School, rather than in the Meeting Room, during which the Confirmation Certificates were presented to the Candidates.

Wednesday 18 May 2005

The painting of the outside of the Priory was completed – which commenced on 20 April. The Priory had last been painted in 1998.

Thursday 26 May 2005

The feast of Corpus Christi. Unfortunately due to the School having programmed the Corpus Christi Procession for the same date as last year – despite an earlier Easter – the re-arranged Corpus Christi Procession was in fact held today. Last weekend one of the vital School Staff was absent and next weekend and the subsequent weekend are half term. 54 Adults attended plus the 76 members of the School – giving roughly 30 less attending than would have attended on a Sunday.

As usual the Procession went along Lancaster Lane to the Convent and all was over by 1030. Fortunately the inclement weather of the past few days only just held off.

Weekend 4+5 June 2005

Father John Collins SPS stayed and made the annual Foreign Mission Appeal on behalf of the Kiltegan Fathers.

Thursday 9 June 2005

During Father Gordon's absence for a week Masses were said by Father Kenneth Smith and Father Barry Matthews, with the 1800 Saturday Mass being said by Father Augustine OSB from St Benedict's Brownedge.

Saturday 18 June 2005

The feast of the Parish's Martyr, Saint John Rigby. A Parish Garden Fête was held – very successfully arranged by Joan Trevelyan. Originally planned to be held on the Priory Lawn and Meadow it was transferred to the Car Park and area adjacent due to the poor state of the Priory Lawn. The purpose of the Fête was primarily social rather than Fund raising – nevertheless £936 was raised. A subsequent donation from Notre Dame Convent brought the total to £1000. The success of the day was helped by the exceedingly good and sunny weather – the hottest day of the year so far.

At 1600 Abbot Cuthbert OSB arrived from Ampleforth to stay for the weekend.

Sunday 19 June 2005

Having said Saturday evening Mass Abbot Cuthbert also said Sunday morning Mass before returning to Yorkshire via St Benedict's Brownedge. Unfortunately as he returned to Ampleforth the area between Thirsk and Helmsley experienced flash floods – 70 mm of rain (1 month's supply) in 3 hours, with much devastation.

Friday 24 June 2005

A thirty-minute Mass in the Barn at Harrock Hall, arranged by the Parish Priest of Wrightington, in honour of St John Rigby – although today is the Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist (last year they held the Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart!). Only one Parishioner from Our Lady and All Saints was present in the 100 strong congregation.

Weekend 25+26 June 2005

Parishioners signed a White Sash which was given to Cafod to take to Edinburgh to be presented to the G8 leaders who were meeting in Gleneagles. "Make Poverty History" and alleviate the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Debt was the purpose of the exercise.

Monday 4 July 2005

The end of sixteen days of nice warm and sunny summer weather! ....see *8 July*

Wednesday 6 July 2005

Great rejoicing in the country as London won the bid to stage the 2012 Olympics – but .....

Thursday 7 July 2005

Up to 56 people were killed as a result of 4 bomb attacks in London – 3 on the Underground and one "self-inflicted" on a Bus. Father Gordon who was due to fly to Gatwick, to conduct a convalidation in Sussex, was diverted to Heathrow where there was utter chaos with all London Underground, Overground and Buses cancelled. Ampleforth College broke up today for the summer holidays and 4 students had to return overnight due to the York train being unable to go beyond Peterborough. Three bombers were British born fanatical Moslems of Pakistan origin – possibly with Al Qaeda training.

Friday 8 July 2005

The second warm – hot – spell started!

Weekend 9+10 July 2005

At Masses this weekend nationalist jingoism – hymns to the tune of Land of Hope and Glory, and the Dambusters plus I vow to thee my Country, the National Anthem and Jerusalem. This was to mark the cessation of hostilities from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. In true British compromise this nation did not celebrate 8 May (VE Day) nor will it celebrate 15 August (VJ Day) but settled for a compromise – 10 July!

Tuesday 12 July 2005

The hot spell continues – 80°F in the study and 84°F in the Utilities Room – in the shade!

Thursday 21 July 2005

End of the second hot spell.

Friday 22 July 2005

The Fascia Boards on the south side of the Priory were replaced. UPVC was used (less maintenance) seeing that the Priory no longer comes under the auspices of the Historical Churches and WLDC had no objection.

Tuesday 26 July 2005

Abbot Martin Shipperlee OSB, Abbot of Ealing, came to lunch and stayed overnight whilst attending a Meeting of the Committee of the Conference of Religious, being held at Ayrefield, of which he is the Chairman.

Wednesday 10 August 2005

The Feast of St Laurence, Patron of Ampleforth. 6 of the Brethren from Leyland and Brownedge came to Lunch and Midday Prayer along with 3 of the Douai brethren from Scarisbrick and Ormskirk.

Friday 19 August 2005

A new Board in the Church Meeting Room was completed. "Please pray for our Priests" – with a list of 13 Parish Priests and 10 Assistants etc (2 of whom subsequently became Parish Priests). Within 24 hours the dates of 3 Priests were found to be inaccurate – despite most of the information being taken from the Parish History composed by Father David O'Brien. Father David's own dates were incorrect! Four assistant Priests (not in the Parish History) were also discovered in the Ampleforth Archives.

Also installed were signs asking Cars to Park rear end to the Church in order that passers-by (especially Children) or Lamp Bollards will not be knocked down, by reversing vehicles! Unfortunately some Drivers are so visually challenged that they cannot even read the signs since they continue to park face front into the Church.

Saturday 20 August 2005

The Pottery Chalices and Patens which have been in use since 2000 in Church, for the weekend Liturgy, have been superseded by 6 Metal (but not gilt) Chalices and 4 metal (not gilt) Patens. Due to the items not being gilded the cost only came to £624 (met from Parish Fête) as opposed to a minimum of £1600.

Monday 22 August 2005

Father Kenneth Smith said the 1215 Mass today and Father Barry Matthews will say the 0915 Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday whilst Father Gordon is at the annual Chapter Meeting at Ampleforth.

Wednesday 31 August 2005

Peter Osbaldeston retired from being a Foundation Governor of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School. Peter had been a Governor for 27 years, 4 of which saw him as Chairman.

A generous gift from the VAT man – the final VAT reclaimed from the Church refurbishment of 2003!

Monday 5 September 2005

Father Barry Matthews said the 1215 Mass and will say Mass on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (Father Kenneth Smith on Wednesday) whilst Father Gordon gives the Parish their annual holiday from their Parish Priest.

Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School opened for the autumn term. They should have opened on 2 September but due to building work of a new Porch, a Secretary's Reception office and an enlarged office for the Head-teacher the opening was delayed. Similar work was carried out at Parbold Douglas CE School due to Lancashire suddenly finding spare cash in their kitties.

Friday 9 September 2005

Father Alban Hood OSB, of Douai Abbey, arrived to hold the fort until Sunday 18 September.

Monday 19 September 2005

Father Kenneth Smith said the 1215 Mass and will say the 0915 Mass on Tuesday. Father Barry Matthews will say Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's Masses prior to Father Gordon's return on Friday 23 September.

Friday 30 September 2005

In preparation for a Health and Safety "Risk Assessment" inspection on Tuesday 4 October white lines were painted on the steps leading out of Church. They certainly assist the visually challenged as they leave Church.

The grounds of Our Lady and All Saints Church received a commendation in Lancashire's "Best Kept Village" competition. A similar commendation was received last year. Both commendations have been framed and placed in the Church

Monday 3 October 2005

The outside Toilet was once again re-painted!

Tuesday 4 October 2005

Father Abbot's Secretary, Julia Brook (Parishes Administration Liaison Officer), along with a Risk Assessment Manager from DE Ford (Insurance Brokers) and Anthony Hitchen (recently appointed Risk Assessment Manager for the Parish) met for a two and a half hour inspection of all the Parish property. In spite of some failings the Parish received a gold star!

Saturday 8 October 2005

A massive earthquake in Kashmir resulting in devastation of many mountain villages and the deaths of over 72,000 people in NE Pakistan, NW India and Eastern Afghanistan.

Tuesday 11 October 2005

The windows in the Garage and Utility Room were changed to frosted glass. This was recommended by the Insurers in 2004 and commented upon by the risk assessment team last Tuesday.

Friday 21 October 2005

The Church Bells were not rung – through oversight – for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The Battle which prevented the UK going Metric and having their legislation directed from mainland Europe .....!!

Thursday 27 October 2005

Allegedly the warmest 27 October since records began – quite a change from the persistent rain of the last two weeks

Sunday 6 November 2005

7 Parishioners, having attended a weekend Retreat/Course with the Archdiocese, were commissioned by the Archdiocese as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Thursday 10 November 2005

2 Parishioners, who were unable to attend the Ministers' Course in Liverpool at the weekend, were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at the 1900 Mass.

Friday 11 November 2005

Despite the persistent rain in mid October the "Fall" rain did not really arrive until November – a month late. The trees too have only begun shedding their leaves now – again nearly a month late.

Saturday 12 November 2005

A Parish Quiz night was held in Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Thursday 17 November 2005

Frost has arrived – but a beautiful sunny day.

Friday 18 November 2005

Parbold Hill was closed to traffic from 0815 until 1100 due to an RTA.

A 6 year old Pupil from Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School was baptised in Church at 1430, in the presence of the School

Saturday 19 November 2005

A fire hazard in Church – if too many Votive Lights are placed on the stands their combined heat causes liquid wax which in turn ignites and causes a very large flame! Parishioners will be asked to ensure that the Votive Candles are not placed directly next to each other.

Monday 28 November 2005

The first winter snow – for Parbold. Last week Scotland and Cornwall were badly affected.

Sunday 4 December 2005

A very successful Advent Fayre was held in the School after the very well attended 1000 Mass. This was organised by the School PTA and Parish Social Committee. Over £1000 was raised - £483.20 going to Parish Funds and the remainder to the School PTA.

Thursday 15 December 2005

Fr Barry Matthews said the evening Mass since Father Gordon was absent at Ampleforth for a Chapter Meeting. The Ampleforth community had found Abbot Timothy's 3-4 day Chapters a little heavy so Abbot Cuthbert announced he would reduce them ..... to 3 x 2 day Chapters = 6 days!

The Full Moon was at its largest today for 20 years – unfortunately not visible over Parbold tonight – but certainly last night (and Friday 16 December).

Monday 19 December 2005

35 attended the 35 minute Advent Penitential Service at which Father Gordon was assisted by Father Barry Matthews in a warm Church!

Saturday 24 December 2005

2230 Carols preceding 2300 Midnight Mass. The Organist (Ann Roberts) had just had a Cataract operation this week so her son Matthew ably stood in for her. 215 attended the Candlelight Mass which was the fourth highest attendance for Midnight since 1995.

Sunday 25 December 2005

The Christmas morning Mass was poorly attended – only 179 – with very few young children in evidence. 179 was the lowest morning attendance since the abolition of 0830 and 1030 Masses in 1999. The overall Christmas attendance of 394 was the second lowest recorded in recent times (700s in the early 1990s – although 300 were due to a 1700 Vigil Mass).

At both the Midnight (2300) Mass and the Morning Mass a survey was carried out to find people's views as to what time Midnight Mass should be in the future. The option of a 1700/1800/1900 Vigil Mass was not on offer. 48% opted for Midnight Mass at 2300, 28% for 0000, 12% each for 2100 and 2200.

Thursday 29 December 2005

The second cold spell arrived yesterday but last night the temperature dropped to between -8°C and -12°C in some areas. This was not very conducive for the last wedding of the year at Our Lady and All Saints which took place today.

Saturday 31 December 2005

Fr Kenneth said the 1100 Mass in Fr Gordon's absence. Fr Mark Beattie OCD supplied for the 1800 Mass and tomorrow's Mass but did not stay overnight.