

2007

Monday 1 January 2007

Father Barry Matthews said the 1000 Mass and will do so on Tuesday and Wednesday during Father Gordon's absence.

Sunday 7 January 2007

Today is the feast of the Epiphany. As a result the 3 Wise Men arrived in the Crib last night and after the 1000 Mass today (at which there were two Baptisms) the Crib was dismantled due to the Baptism of Jesus being tomorrow and not next Sunday!

Monday 8 January 2007

21 teenagers and their Parents attended the first session of the 2007 Confirmations, held in Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School. This is the largest number of candidates since 1999 (25). Due to Deacon David's absence during weekdays Richard Charnock has taken on the mantle of senior Catechist. Richard belonged to the 1993 group of candidates (28).

Thursday 18 January 2007

...and the winds blew....up to 90 mph. The worst gales in seventeen years. Parbold was let off lightly even though electricity flickered on and off – unlike thousands who had to go without, including Skelmersdale. Many trees were damaged. The North West was the worst affected. It was also the busiest day for traffic incidents (road closures etc) for the past ten years – over 600.

Monday 22 January 2007

Father Barry Matthews, from Newburgh, has returned to the Diocese of Cape Town. He had lived in Newburgh since 2004 (to look after his ailing father, who subsequently died). Father Barry was a very convenient supply Priest for Our Lady and All Saints.

Tuesday 23 January 2007

January is here! The second frost of the winter (first on 3 November).

Sunday 28 January 2007

Two Baptisms at Mass produced a full house (247 people) including Bishop Eugenio Binin, Bishop of Massa Carrara-Pontemoli (near Pisa), with his Chaplain/Secretary who attended from the nave of Church.

Wednesday 31 January 2007

The warmest January since 1916 – fifth warmest since 1796. The Daffodils are nearly blooming – the heads being quite visible.

Saturday 3 February 2007

21 Teenagers were presented to the Parish at the 1800 Mass for their Prayers and support during their preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sunday 4 February 2007

10 Children from the School were presented for the prayers of the Parish as they prepare for their first Confessions and first Holy Communions, although one of them, non baptised, will not be making her 1st Holy Communion.

Thursday 8 February 2007

The nation was overcome by snow, the greatest "white-out" of winter – so far. Over 3,000 schools were closed in the midlands and the south. Yet no drifts and nowhere had more than 7" of snow! In Parbold life continued as normal with only a sugar icing cover in the morning.

Thursday 15 February 2007

Despite the "warm" winter the first daffodils only appeared today (1 February 2005, 13 February 2004)

Weekend 10+11 March 2007

Father Raphael Daly OSB of Buckfast Abbey (aka Fr Leo) said the weekend Masses in father Gordon's absence. Father Kenneth Smith said the weekday Masses.

Monday 19 March 2007

Spring disappeared for a return to winter! Snow in many parts of the country – but not Parbold.

Monday 26 March 2007

About 30 attended the First Confessions of 9 Children from the School. Father Kenneth assisted. It was not publicised on the Notices in order to encourage attendance next week at the Parish Lenten Service of Reconciliation.

Thursday 29 March 2007

The extensions to the 2 School Classrooms, and new toilets, were officially opened today – only seven months behind schedule. Father Gordon blessed the extension work at School – in the company (the accidental company) of Father David O'Brien OSB, Parish Priest 1974 to 1989, who was visiting Parishioners. This took place during an Assembly in the afternoon whilst there was a special Mass of Thanksgiving in Church at 1900 followed by a gathering cum inspection in the School after.

Saturday 31 March 2007

For the first time since early December – 16 weeks – the "naughty boys" (Lancs Probation Services) returned to work in the grounds.

Weekend 31 March + 1 April 2007

Beautiful days to assist with the Procession of Palms from the Priory Garage. Father was only a semi tone out from the Organ on Saturday and Sunday when the Procession finally entered the Church

Monday 2 April 2007

54 (59 last year, 47 2005, 48 in Advent 2006) attended at 35 minute Lenten Service of Reconciliation at which Father Gordon was assisted by the new Chaplain to SND Convent, Monsignor Peter McGuire.

Thursday 5 April 2007

10% fewer than usual at the Maundy Thursday Mass, Mandatum and Watching (86:95).

Friday 6 April 2007

A truly warm and sunny day so the sun, and no doubt Southport, won on this Bank Holiday. 20% less (118 compared with 147) at the Solemn Liturgy – which went very smoothly. Only 3 junior school children were present – although a number of teenagers.

Saturday 7 April 2007

and the Easter Vigil attendance was down by 29% from last year (69 from 94).

Sunday 8 April 2007

The Resurrection of the Lord. Numbers at 1000 not too bad – 219 (239 last year but only 189 in 2005).

Sunday 15 April 2007

Summer has come – on 18 April! 73°F in the Priory – and for the past three days lovely warm sunny days – yet the blossom is still trying to come out. No doubt a lull before the final winter snows!

Tuesday 17 April 2007

Father Alban Hood OSB of Douai Abbey conducted the 1100 Funeral due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth at Chapter.

Wednesday 18 April 2007

Father Barry Matthews, who has now permanently returned from South Africa on Monday 16 April, said the 0915 Mass in Father Gordon's absence at Chapter.

Friday 20 April 2007

A time and motion study, commenced on 20 April 2006, for the Grounds and Cemetery Maintenance was concluded today. It shows that the six Parishioners who are helping to care and tender the Grounds have spent a total of 361 hours 55 minutes at work during the past twelve months – roughly 7 hours per week.

Sunday 22 April 2007

70 Catenians (including Parishioner Catenians) from the Ormskirk Circle attended the 1000 Mass – the Presidential Mass of Catenian President Tony Charnock.

Tuesday 24 April 2007

Weekday Masses this week are being said by Father Kenneth due to Father Gordon being away on the annual Low Week Retreat – moved a week due to last week's Chapter.

Monday 30 April 2007

The warmest April since records began in 1659. It also coincides with the warmest twelve months since records began. Rhododendrons flowering near the Garage.

Tuesday 1 May 2007

70°F at 1700 in the Priory Study.

The resignation of Mrs Claire Cropper from being Headteacher of Our Lady and All Saints School was announced. Claire will depart at the end of this summer term to become Headteacher of St Mary's RC PS Billinge. This follows the usual pattern of Headteachers of Our Lady and All Saints RC PS who use our School as a stepping stone on their way up the educational ladder. At least Claire had served 6 years as Headteacher unlike her predecessors.

Weekend 5 + 6 May 2007

A Survey was carried out concerning Eulogies at Funerals and the hypothetical alteration of Mass times if and when to fit in with our neighbours in "*Leaving Safe Harbours*".

Mass times: If Saturday evening Mass were to be discontinued 45 would find another Church whilst 40 would attend the Sunday 1000 Mass. 51 were happy with Sunday 1000 Mass, whilst 22 would be willing for Sunday morning Mass to be at 0930 "to assist other Churches", 36 for 1030, 14 for 1100 and only 2 for 1130.

Eulogies: 61 wished the Eulogy to be read (*read not given* was the only option) by a Family member or Friend; 41 would accept the Priest reading the Eulogy; 14 would accept a designated Reader reading the Eulogy. 44 accepted the Eulogy in its normal place after Communion, whilst 16 could accept it before the Opening Prayer. Only 6 would accept the Eulogy at the Graveside! 48 agreed that the Eulogy should be no longer than one side of A4. Emulating the elections for the Scottish Parliament on Thursday there were 8 spoiled ballot papers – including 2 who suggested that the Eulogy be given at the "Wake".

Sunday 6 May 2007

Since there is a Bank Holiday tomorrow, the wonderful warm and sunny weather experienced in the past month, certainly in the past fortnight, has disappeared for the usual late Spring weather.

Friday 11 May 2007

Father Gordon, Deacon David, 7 adult Catechists and 19 teenagers set off for the Confirmation weekend Retreat at Ampleforth Abbey (one remained behind due to ill health). The Minibuses of St Mary's parish Leyland, and Brownedge St Mary's High School were borrowed.

A Newburgh family opened their home for a Coffee evening to assist with Fund raising for the Summer Fête.

Saturday 12 May 2007

Father Kenneth said the 1100 Mass in Father Gordon's absence.

Fr Raphael Daly OSB, of Buckfast Abbey, said the 1800 Mass and the Sunday 1000 Mass.

Thursday 17 May 2007

The heat came on in both the Priory and the Church such has been the drop in temperature (back to normal!) since the beginning of May.

Bishop Vincent Malone, retired auxiliary in Liverpool, confirmed 20 teenage Confirmation candidates. Most of whom, with their families, gathered in the School afterwards to meet with Bishop Vincent. The Confirmation Mass which started at 1900 finished at 2015

Sunday 20 May 2007

Thursday should have been the Feast of the Ascension but the Hierarchy in their infinite wisdom transferred the feast to today. This coincided with 8 children of the Parish making their First Holy Communions. Corpus Christi will also be transferred to the nearest Sunday but St Peter and St Paul, the Assumption and All Saints remain on their own dates.

Wednesday 23 May

A Parbold family held a Coffee evening for Funds for the June Garden Fête.

Wednesday 30 May 2007

Global warming?! The heat in both Priory and Church came on today (automatically) due to the thermostat clicking in because of the cold weather. On Monday (the usual wet and cold Bank Holiday) the coldest ever recorded Test Match took place (In June 1975 a Test Match at Trent Bridge was not played because of snow!).

Friday 1 June 2007

.....and the temperature rose by 10°F!

Weekend 2 + 3 June 2007`

The Annual Mission Appeal should have been made this weekend by the Sacred Heart Fathers. Alas they could not be present so Father Gordon spoke on their behalf – for three minutes – and £461.87 was raised! Giving can be in inverse proportion to length of appeal!

Monday 4 June 2007

The Confirmation Catechists and Father Gordon had a celebratory dinner at the Wayfayers.

Tuesday 5 June 2007

The Steeplejacks, who come every five years to inspect the Steeple and Lightning Conductors, arrived to carry out their inspection – delayed since October 2006.

Sunday 10 June 2007

The Feast of Corpus Christi – now transferred from the Thursday. The Parish held its annual Corpus Christi procession to Notre Dame Convent with the First Communicants. Fortunately the weather remained fine throughout and the proceedings were completed by 1105. The 1st Communicants then had their First Communion Breakfast in the School during which their Certificates were presented.

Thursday 14 June 2007

Father Barry Matthews said the evening Mass and will be supplying until next Wednesday whilst Father Gordon has his “Easter Week”.

Saturday 16 June 2007

The Parish Fête was held in the School Hall due to the forecast inclement weather – which actually did not materialise – despite a week of torrential rain and flooding in the Midlands and Ulster. £775 was raised along with £285 for Jospice.

Friday 22 June 2007

The annual Mass in honour of Saint John Rigby (organised by the Parish Priest of Wrightington) was held in Harrock Hall. For the first time the Parish Priest of Harrock Hall (Father Gordon) was asked to preach!

Monday 25 June 2007

The wettest day in the wettest June since records began! Terrible flooding throughout the country. Parbold fortunately was not flooded but did not escape the continuous rain. One result was to produce a leak in the Church at a new site.

Tuesday 3 July 2007

The quinquennial Survey of the Priory and Church took place (a year late). The Surveyor could not discover the source of the leak in Church nor the source of an intermittent leak by the Steward's site at the main door. The state of the Priory roof, on the south side – around “the roof valley” was not at all in good shape with rotting boards due to the damp.

Friday 6 July 2007

Seven Governors, 3 Advisers (2 x County, 1 x Liverpool) + Father Gordon met to appoint a new Headteacher. The session began with Mass in Church followed by presentations in the Church Meeting room. This was followed by the two candidates (only two applied) conducting Prayer Services in School and being grilled by the School Council. Pat Bennett returned to the Priory to cook an excellent Lunch for the 13. After Lunch the interviews took place and Mrs Claire Griffin of Chorley was appointed Headteacher wef 1 January 2008.

In the evening, at Ormskirk, the Chairman of the Governors, Adrian Owens, a Parishioner, was elected to be the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for West Lancashire.

Weekend 7+8 July 2007`

Abbot Cuthbert visited the Parish for his official quadrennial Visitation. He said the Saturday evening Mass and the Sunday morning Mass at which there were two Baptisms (one with 20 Filipino Godparents).

Sunday 8 July 2007

Father Abbot conducted two Baptisms at the 1000 Mass – one of which had ten Filipino Godparents. The Mass and Baptisms were over by 1100.

After the Mass a “surprise” party and presentation to Father Gordon pre-empting his 40th (Ruby) anniversary of Ordination on 16 July. Tables were set out at the back of Church for a very fine buffet of food and drink provided by Parishioners. On behalf of the Parish Father Abbot presented Father Gordon with £1,000 and fifteen bottles of spiritual water!

All had been arranged, in secrecy, by Joan Trevelyan. Although Father Gordon had his suspicions as a result of indiscretions from three non Parish sources everyone of the Parishioners had kept the secret until very late on Saturday night when a Greetings Card was dropped through the Priory letter box – “sorry we shall not be at your big do tomorrow”.

Monday 9 July 2007

Father Abbot made his official visitation of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Saturday 14 July 2007

Parbold Summer Fayre (a) it did not rain (b) the sun actually shone (c) Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School won First Prize for their float.

Tuesday 17 July 2007

6 School Leavers (all that are in Year 6) held the Annual School Leavers' Mass. There was one Adult Leaver, Mrs Claire Cropper, the Headteacher.

Thursday 19 July 2007

Has summer begun – apart from the glitch at the end of April and beginning of May? A sunny day and temperatures in the 20°s!

Saturday 21 July 2007

11°C (52°F) at 1600! Last year the temperature was 28°C (83°F) at 2300 on 17 July and on 19 July 36.3°C (97°F) in Surrey! Torrential rain (tropical storm variety) yesterday and today in the SW Midlands. Ten hours delays on the M5. Massive flooding in Worcester, Gloucester and Oxon.

Tuesday 31 July 2007

Is summer returning (19 July)? Sunny and over 20°C today!

Friday 3 August 2007

After six years it is hoped that the Ash Vault is now water proof. Originally built in November 2001 the Vault leaked from its sides due to the high water table. In July 2004 a plastic tank was inserted to prevent the water table gaining entrance. Unfortunately the top of the Vault was porous – and since 2001 had been rotting and letting water through its surface. A new (and much lighter) top has been put in position – using Marine Timber as opposed to porous wood with a plastic membrane to ensure that no rain goes through. Fortunately the practice of using an Ash Vault has not yet hit the Parishioners of Our Lady and All Saints so there have been no embarrassing situations! One Urn was placed in the Vault at the beginning of 2004, but at the family's request (and they did not know about the leaks!) the Ashes were subsequently transferred to a grave before any untoward damage had occurred.

Sunday 5 August 2007

The warmest day since April (!) – but apparently only for today.

Monday 6 August 2007

The Abbot of Westminster – 7th Abbot of Ampleforth – Abbot Timothy – came to lunch.

Thursday 16 August 2007

Ampleforth Conventual Chapter – Father Kenneth said Masses today and tomorrow.

Tuesday 28 August 2007

The Electricians came to carry out some work – and – coincidence or not – the Church Floods and Pathway Bollards went out of action!

Monday 3 September 2007

During Father Gordon's break for the Parish Father Kenneth will say all weekday Masses up until 21 September. Bishop Ambrose OSB (from Leyland) will say the weekend Masses on 8+9 September and Father Damian OSB from Osmotherley will say Mass the weekend 15+16 September.

Monday 10 September 2007

Father Damian OSB (Osmotherley) arrived for a two week holiday.

Saturday 22 September 2007

Father Michael OSB, Quondam of the Parish, assisted Father Gordon at a Parish wedding.

Thursday 27 September 2007

Autumn is here – temperatures in single figures – but the leaves are still green!

Saturday 29 September 2007

...having been away for three weeks the PP went away again – for the Abbatial blessing of Dame Andrea Savage OSB at Stanbrook Abbey – a fellow Scot. Fr Kenneth said the midday Mass and Fr Cassian OSB from St Benedict's Brownedge said the evening Mass at which there was no singing. Michael Kelsall the Saturday 1800 Organist has tendered his resignation due to health reasons.

Thursday 11 October 2007

A Meeting in the Meeting Room to see if there was sufficient support for a "Winter Wonderland" before Christmas. Apart from attendees at the Thursday 1900 Mass only one other person attended – and she was not a Catholic – six in all. It was decided to forgo any pre Christmas Advent Fayre/Winterwonderland due to an obvious lack of enthusiasm.

Monday 15 October 2007

The electricians have been here for two weeks trying to sort out the reason why the driveway Bollard lights keep (a) short circuiting (b) giving off electric shocks. The prospect of having to purchase 154 new Bollards (for £2,000) is not encouraging. The electricians feel that there are no further avenues down which they can go – until Father Gordon suggested they look at the electrics of the outdoor Christmas Lights. Here it was discovered that the main socket was totally immersed in water from this year's excessive rain – and had more than likely caused the problem.

A Meeting in the Meeting Room of all those interested in participating in a Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2008. This will be alongside the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage and will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions. At the moment around 35-40 are showing interest.

Thursday 18 October 2007

Autumn is definitely here – the leaves from the trees are well and truly lining the pavement in Lancaster Lane.

Thursday 1 November 2007

The School (OLAS RCPS) has received a glowing Ofsted report – all 1s and 2s. There will be a Mass (in Church) in December in Thanksgiving.

Canon Brian Harding, Vicar of Christ Church Parbold, retired. His replacement will not be announced until at least six months time. In August Canon David Towler of Christ Church Newburgh also retired and his replacement will not be announced for another six months. In addition both Parbold and Newburgh CE have been told to expect that they will have no resident Vicar – like the Archdiocese of Liverpool, the Diocese of Liverpool (Newburgh CE) and the Diocese of Blackburn (Parbold CE) will have to experience clustering.

Friday 2 November 2007

The Deacons departed for Ushaw College for their annual Retreat. Once again the Archdiocese (or the Deacons' Office) had not had the courtesy to advise Parish Priests directly about this Retreat.

Thursday 8 November 2007

A representative from Lancashire County Council Highways came to investigate the traffic problems during the afternoon school run. Due to the parking of cars by Parbold Douglas CE parents right up to and on both sides of our Lancaster Gate entrance it is extremely difficult for the parents of Our Lady and All Saints School, who illegally use the Church Car Park as a School Car Park, to exit the driveway safely. It was proposed that rather than go down the avenue of double yellow lines- which would take a year and legal process, a 'bus bay be implemented for the 'bus stop and a keep clear bay adjoining the 'bus bay.

Sunday 11 November 2007

Our Lady and All Saints had been expecting the Uniformed Organisations to attend the 1000 Remembrance Sunday Mass – but after one year with us (2006) they reverted to Christ Church. The explanation was to say farewell to Canon Harding.

Thursday 15 November 2007

After six weeks of investigation and work all the driveway bollard lights are now functioning.

Friday 23 November 2007

At 0850 John Hall, of Scarisbrick Avenue. whilst escorting his grandchild to Parbold Douglas CE School collapsed with a heart attack in the Church driveway – immediately opposite the front door of the Priory. Father Gordon gave conditional absolution. Unfortunately, despite medical aid being given by one of the mothers of OLAS pupils who is a nurse, and nurses attending from the Convent, he died. One parent of an OLAS child (not a Parishioner) was horrified that the Parish 0915 Mass was not discontinued "as a sign of respect" – despite the fact that prayers were offered at that Mass for the man!

Monday 26 November 2007

Father Abbot with sixteen of the brethren from Cumbria, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire descended on Our Lady and All Saints for a Parish Fathers' Meeting. The Meeting took place in the Church Meeting Room. An excellent Lunch was provided by Pat Bennett and her daughter Sarah – despite their wish that since it was being held on the feast of Saint Sylvester OSB, who lived on wild herbs and water, the brethren should emulate him! (The first Reading at Mass had been about Daniel and his companions existing on a vegetarian diet!). Midday Prayer was said in Choir with probably more Monks in Choir than would have been in Choir at five or six of the Benedictine Monasteries throughout the country!

Friday 30 November 2007

The Quinquennial Survey had reported Mice droppings inside the Priory roof. Fortunately after a visit from WLDC Pest Control these were determined to be Bat droppings – a protected species.

Sunday 2 December 2007

The School (PTA) ran an Advent Fair – with no Stalls from the Parish due to the lack of interest shown by the Parish in the proposal made in October.

Monday 17 December 2007

45 attended the Advent Service of Reconciliation at which Father Gordon was assisted by Monsignor Peter Maguire, Chaplain to Notre Dame Convent. The Service had not been verbally "pushed" at the weekend – only inserted in the Notices. 48 attended last year but 54 had attended the Holy Week Service of Reconciliation.

Thursday 20 December 2007

The temperature did not rise above 0°C today. For the past three days the infra red heating has been in use in Church – along with the normal heating.

Monday 24 December 2007

Alas – only 20 out of 200 fairy lights on the large tree outside the Priory were working. No doubt the storms of the previous three or four years had destroyed the others. As a result the remaining twenty were disconnected.

Christmas 2007

Numbers this year were roughly identical to last year. Slightly less at the Midnight Mass (2230 for 2300) and slightly more for the 1000 Mass. The Christmas Collection was down by 16% in the Loose Plate from 2006.

Monday 31 December 2007

Father Barry Matthews supplied during Father Gordon's New Year's absence – including a Chapter Meeting at Ampleforth on 2 and 3 January.

2007

Was the second warmest year on record – 2006 being the warmest!