

2008

Tuesday 1 January 2008

Father Barry Matthews said the 1000 Mass and will do so on Wednesday and Thursday during Father Gordon's absence on the latter two days at Chapter at Ampleforth.

Sunday 6 January 2008

The annual Foreign Mission Appeal by the White Fathers. £1,250.63 was donated - £730.63 from the Church collection and £520 from other donations.

Monday 7 January 2008

Mrs Claire Griffin took up her post as new Headteacher of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Sunday 20 January 2008

It was the turn of Our Lady and All Saints' to host the annual Church Unity Service – last held here in 2004. Over 75 attended and Bishop Ambrose Griffiths OSB preached. (2007 = 50 Christ Church Newburgh, 2006 = 90 Village Hall - Elim, 2005 = 50 Christ Church Parbold).

Monday 21 January 2008

Lancaster Lane, between Miry Lane and the start of our property, was flooded – due to the fairly incessant rain we have been experiencing. The A5209 was flooded out side Wrightington Hospital on Thursday 17 January. A local Councillor has asked if WLDC could store sand in our Alder Lane site so that villagers may access it to fill sand bags in case of flooding. Ironic – because WLDC Planning Department has said that the Alder Lane site is not a storage site – despite it having been used as such by LCC from 1940 until 2004, and despite WLDC Finance Department charging rates for that purpose – which were only cancelled this year.

Wednesday 23 January 2008

Yesterday the temperature reached 13°C – today it was only 6°C, yet the birds were chirping and singing as if it was spring and the first bunny had come out of hibernation. Snowdrops are also blooming.

Thursday 31 January 2008

A Baptism of a child from School was held in Church in the afternoon – at which the whole School attended.

Friday 1 February 2008

Atrocious weather conditions throughout Britain – 200 trapped on the A66 because of snow, a Ferry beached off North Shore Blackpool because of gales – yet nothing at Parbold apart from some hail and some strong winds!

Sunday 3 February 2008

Deacon David Bennett was anointed in the early hours and taken to Hospital after a "turn". 19 children were presented at 1000 Mass for the Sacramental Programme. The largest group since 2003 and 2005 when two separate year groups had been presented.

Friday 8 February 2008

The first daffodil has bloomed, a week earlier than last year, three weeks earlier than 2006.

Wednesday 20 February 2008

After three or four delightfully sunny – but fresh – days a foggy and cold day today.
– 2°C at 1030 this morning!

Wednesday 27 February 2008

Many in the Midlands and the North of England – including the Parish Priest of Our Lady and All Saints – were woken at 0057 by an earth tremor. An Earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale had occurred in Market Rasen, Lincolnshire (100 miles away as the proverbial crow flies). This was the most severe Earthquake in the UK for 24 years.

Saturday 1 March 2008

The Church Bell threw a wobbly. Although the Angelus and single tolls worked the hour strikes did not.

Monday 3 March 2008

Seventeen children from the School made their First Confessions, from 1830 until 1915. Father Gordon was assisted by Monsignor Peter McGuire and Father Kenneth Smith. In toto 75 were present including 20 singers from the School. As well as the children at least twelve adults went to Confession.

Thursday 6 March 2008

In Father Gordon's absence (Christmas week) Father Kenneth is supplying the weekday Masses until next Wednesday. Father Cassian OSB from St Benedict's Brownedge will say the Saturday Vigil Mass and Father Andrew OSB from St Mary's Bamber Bridge will say the Sunday 1000 Mass.

Monday 17 March 2008

Not the Feast of Saint Patrick because this is Holy Week. 57 (the highest ever) attended the Lenten Service of Reconciliation. Father Gordon was assisted by Father Kenneth Smith.

Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 March 2008

Attendances at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were higher than last year – but equal with some preceding years. Fourth highest attendance (82) at the Easter Vigil since 2000. Our School only has Good Friday and Easter Monday off – their Easter holidays will commence on Friday 4 April – so maybe more at the Services because some have not gone away – or the weather forecast is too miserable – cold and snow!

Saturday 22 March 2008

1235 – snow – but it did not lie! It is colder today than it was at Christmas!

Sunday 23 March 2008

A record attendance of 318 at 1000 Mass – at least since 2001 – helped by a Baptism at the Mass.

Thursday 27 March 2008

Parbold Hill was closed for two hours (1800-2000) as a result of an accident.

Tuesday 31 March 2008

Father Kenneth supplied today and will do so until Friday due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth on Retreat.

Sunday 6 April 2008

After the warmest April Thursday – hard frost and snow!

Monday 7 April 2008

Father Kenneth supplied today, and will do so again tomorrow, due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth (yet again....) for Chapter.

Week 5 – 10 May 2008

An exceptionally warm and summery week – temperatures in Parbold reaching 24°C, although higher elsewhere – rather similar to the first week in May 2006.

Saturday 10 May 2008

The warmest start to May since records began in 1772.

Sunday 18 May 2008

First Communion Sunday – Seventeen children from the School attended with their families making a total of 297 at the 1000 Mass. Everyone managed to fit into the Church and the Mass was dignified.

Sunday 25 May 2008

After the 1000 Mass the Corpus Christi Procession was held. Twelve of the First Communicants were present. A successful Procession to the Convent – the ninth year without rain preventing the Procession! Due to the presence of Father Barry Matthews at Mass Father Gordon carried and used the loud hailer whilst Father Barry carried the Blessed Sacrament. All was completed by 1110.

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Deacon Brian Norman was anointed at home.

Wednesday 28 May 2008

Deacon Brian was admitted to Hospital.

Saturday 31 May 2008

A visitor to the Parish and Church collapsed at 1800 Mass during the Homily. Fortunately the presence of two Police, two Nurses and a Doctor in the congregation kept him stable until the arrival of the Paramedic, followed by the Ambulance men. Father Gordon went to his bench and gave him Absolution (during the Creed) and then gave him Holy Communion at Communion.

Saturday 7 June 2008

An emergency meeting of Eucharistic Ministers. With the new Rota shortly due to commence it was suddenly found that at the Sunday 1000 Mass the Parish will be short of six Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist – four departing through ill health. Although six new Ministers have been found – and will hopefully be trained by Deacon David before 1 August – the next Diocesan Course not being until November – the decision has to be taken as to whether or not there is to be a reduction in the generous care of the Sick which the Parish now gives. Unlike most Parishes the Sick of Parbold receive Holy Communion (a) once a week (b) on a Sunday. To prevent future “crises” and to give leeway to the Extraordinary Ministers, especially during “holiday” periods, a reduction has to be proposed. The Sick of the Parish (excluding the two Nursing Homes – where Communion will continue once a week and on Sundays) were asked to give their opinions on last Sunday.

As a result of the Meeting it has been decided that the Sick should continue to receive Holy Communion once a week, at the weekend. The two Nursing Homes to receive every Sunday and half the housebound to receive on Sunday and half on Saturdays.

Thursday 19 June 2008

Father Kenneth Smith supplied and will do so for weekday Mass until next Wednesday (inclusive) whilst Father Gordon is away (Easter week).

Saturday 21 June 2008

The annual Parish Garden Fête was held – in the absence of the Parish Priest. Mrs Pat Bennett opened the Fête.

Weekend 21 + 22 June 2008

Father Cassian OSB and Father David OSB from St Benedict's Brownedge supplied at the Saturday evening Mass and Sunday morning Mass.

Thursday 26 June 2008

....and it rained and it rained and it rained! Much localised flooding in the area.

Friday 27 June 2008

The annual Mass at Harrock Hall in honour of Saint John Rigby. Deacon David preached.

Saturday 28 June 2008

A new toy was tried out at Mass tonight. A CD Player playing Hymns instead of an Organ. Michael Kelsall, the Saturday Organist gave up playing in October. 24 CDs from Kevin Mayhew were purchased. Unfortunately although the Parish uses a Kevin Mayhew Hymn Book 313 Hymns from our Hymn Book are not on the CD repertoire of 504 Hymns. In addition some of the CD Hymns have more and some have less verses than in our Hymn Book! The Discs and CD Player were purchased instead of an Electronic player, which sounded extremely tinny and which would have cost around £2,500 + as opposed to the full costs of the CD player including installation etc for £1,186.

Monday 30 June 2008

Mrs Helen Jones, a Parishioner, took on the role of Parish Secretary. This had been vacated by Mrs Pat Bennett in April 2003 when Pat had reached the retirement age of 65. Helen will work two hours on Monday afternoons and two hours in Friday afternoons.

Friday 11 July 2008

Wet! Wet! Wet! – Query at last week's Wimbledon "why – cold and wet throughout this week.

Thursday 17 July 2008

The annual School Leavers' Mass was held at 1900. There were 16 Leavers in a Congregation of 55. Apart from the 1st Scriptural Reading, and a rehearsal on Tuesday, the quality of reading left a lot to be desired.

Saturday 19 July 2008

The Parish Priest rose at 0415 to go to the Shopping Precinct to bid farewell to 25 Parishioners (and 2 others) who were setting off at 0445 for Liverpool Airport to fly to Lourdes on Pilgrimage. At Lourdes they will be affiliated to the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage, which left for Lourdes yesterday.

Thursday 24 July 2008

Two moderately summery dayswell temperatures were in the seventies!

Monday 28 July 2008

Technically Alder Lane, from Lancaster Lane to Higher Lane, is closed for the next three weeks to allow re-surfacing. The detour via Hoscar or Appley Bridge takes an extra ten minutes! The company doing the tarring are using our Alder Lane storage site – which, of course, according to WLDC is not a storage site!

Friday 1 August 2008

A six metre flag pole was erected outside the Priory. The suppliers had attempted to place one there on Tuesday but since it was simply wedged (by three small wooden wedges) into the ground sleeve, it was not accepted due to poor security. The pole, plus Union Flag and St George Flag (for Feast Days) is a gift from Father Gordon's family.

Friday 15 August 2008

The Flag Pole and the Flags were blessed and the St George flag hoisted for the feast of the Assumption. The Parish Priest decided that although the Union Flag should fly on public buildings on 15 August, for the birthday of HRH the Princess Royal, the Assumption should take precedence. The attendance of adults at the 0930 holyday Mass was the largest for years. Unfortunately nothing to do with the Flag flying!

Monday 18 August 2008

Father Barry Matthews supplied today and tomorrow during Father Gordon's absence at yet another Chapter at Ampleforth.

Sunday 31 August 2008

The second dullest (ie lack of sun) August since records began! Dullest = 1912.

Friday 5 September 2008

The Priory heating – which is automatically activated by the thermostat came on this morning – the temperature having dropped so much!

Father Ernest Lubuva OFM Cap, a Tanzanian studying in Rome, arrived to begin a three week supply whilst Father Gordon gives the Parish their annual holiday from him. Father Gordon will leave on Sunday 7 September and return on Friday 26 September.

Thursday 11 September 2008

Deacon Brian Norman died in Southport Hospital, aged 71. He had been suffering from Pulmonary Fibrosis since at least Christmas.

Thursday 18 September 2008

Bishop Vincent Malone presided at the Funeral Mass of Deacon Brian at which Father Barry Matthews' preached. Eighteen Deacons were in attendance in the Retro Choir. Unfortunately, the Parish Priest was not present. On the day of Deacon Brian's death he had arrived in Tibet and on the day of the funeral was preparing to advance on Mount Everest Base Camp.

Sunday 5 October 2008

Abbot Placid Spearritt OSB former monk of Ampleforth (23 years) and currently Abbot of New Norcia Western Australia was due to stay at the Priory this weekend. Alas yesterday afternoon at 1415 he died whilst having a coffee in the Ampleforth Calefactory. Abbot Placid was an exact contemporary of Father Gordon in clothing, profession and ordination.

Friday 10 October 2008

The School, Parents and Governors attended the 0915 Mass. This Mass was to launch the revised School Mission Statement.

Tuesday 14 October 2008

25 attended a Pastoral Area (aka Deanery) Meeting of Clergy and Laity which was hosted at Our Lady and All Saints. The Meeting took place in the Church Meeting Room.

Saturday 18 + Sunday 19 October 2008

Father David O'Brien OSB – Quondam Emeritus – supplied for the weekend due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth. According to the Ampleforth web-site Father Gordon was in Western Australia representing the Abbot and Community at Abbot Placid's Funeral – see 5 October. Due to the procrastination that emanated from Ampleforth, the lack of any one to look after the Parish and the four fold increase in Air Fares Father Gordon did not go to Western Australia.

Tuesday 28 October 2008

An arrangement was made with the SND Sisters that their 24x7 Reception would field emergency phone calls to the Priory – when the caller is directed to SND via the Priory Answermachine. This will save problems over any further visits to Australia (see 18+19 Oct)!

After extreme flooding in north Lancashire and Cumbria the temperature at 1500 today was 3°C. There was snow in the Midlands and London. Where is global warming?

Thursday 30 October 2008

The entrance to the Driveway (from Lancaster Lane), the Path from the Driveway to the Convent Grounds and the SE slope of the Car park were tarred today. The cost of doing the whole of the Car Park, Driveway and Cemetery Path would have been £20,500 – the cost of today's work is £6,400. It is hoped that the School Governors will provide some of the funding for the Driveway and Car Park seeing that during Term time they are used for two School runs every School day – as opposed to Parishioners who only use the Driveway and Car Park for one Church run at the weekend.

Sunday 2 November 2008

A warning was placed in the Notice Sheets that during the coming winter Parishioners should wear warm clothing in Church. The Church heating would not be on for as long as in previous years. This was due to the increase of Gas Prices from 70p a Therm (minus VAT) to £1.27p a Therm (minus VAT) – an increase of 81%.....if Offertory donations increased?!

Sunday 9 November 2008

The Parbold Uniformed Organisations (Explorers, Venture Scouts, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows) attended the 1000 Mass for Remembrance Sunday. This Mass was said by Bishop Ambrose Griffiths OSB in the absence of Father Gordon. Father Gordon was performing a Marriage in County Donegal. Last night's Vigil Mass was said by Father Paul Browne OSB of St Mary's Leyland.

Monday 10 November 2008

A meeting was held at the Priory of the two local Headteachers, two Parbold councillors and a representative from Lancashire Education and Lancashire Highways as well as the Parbold Policeman. This meeting was to discuss the problems caused by School Run parking in Lancaster Lane.

Saturday 15 November 2008

A Quiz Night was held with the PTA in Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School from which £63 was donated to Parish Funds.

Monday 1 December 2008

Father Barry Matthews said the midday Mass due to Father Gordon's absence in Swansea where he was representing the Abbot and Community at the installation of the new Bishop of Menevia.

Saturday 6 December 2008

A very cold and frosty week – resulting in a car skidding off the road in Alder Lane and firmly depositing itself fair and square in Alder Lane Brook. Not quite on Parish property but adjacent to the School's property.

Sunday 7 December 2008

The Annual Advent Fayre was held with the PTA, after the 1000 Mass, in Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School. £620 was donated to the Parish Maintenance and Repair Fund.

Weekend 13 +14 December 2008

The Papers say that the start to this winter has been the coldest in over thirty years.

Monday + Tuesday 15 + 16 December 2008

Father Barry said the Masses whilst Father Gordon was at Ampleforth for Chapter.

Wednesday 17 December 2008

At the end of October a new Computer was purchased from Dell (via Phone Sales) due to the Parish Office Computer needing to exceed its Gigabyte Capacity of 13 Gb. Unfortunately the Internet could not be accessed from the new Computer. Many phone calls to the ISP and Dell (both in Bangalore) plus a visit from a Dell Technician. In the end the Computer was returned and a full refund given. A new Computer (200 Gb) was bought today from KC Computers in Burscoughand it would not access the Internet.

One advantage of buying locally is that the technician was freely available. He diagnosed the fault as being a too old Modem not being compatible with a modern Computer!

Thursday 18 December 2008

Lancashire County Council Highways Department (Wrightington Depot) attended with their Cherry Picker to place new lights on the Tree outside the Priory which acts as a Christmas Tree. 800 new Lights were purchased, the previous ones having been "blown out" by the gales of the previous six years. The cost of the Lights was less than the cost of the Christmas Tree in Church!

Monday 22 December 2008

68 attended the Advent Penance Service at which Father Gordon was assisted by Monsignor Peter McGuire – from Notre Dame Convent. This was the highest ever attendance (57 during Holy Week).

Christmas 2008

A good attendance at Midnight Mass – Carols at 2230 followed by Candlelight Midnight Mass at 2300. Many more children than usual attended and quite a few non-catholics. The latter may have been due to the fact that Christ Church Parbold, being Vicarless, had no Midnight Service and the Congregation had to go to Appley Bridge (or OLAS) if they wished one. Bob Larkin successfully took over the running of the Choir due to the departure of Jean Cavendish to reside in Liverpool.

Thursday 25 December 2008

Christmas Morning Mass was averagely attended – the Retro Choir was not in use. Throughout the total figure (390) was the same as since 2004. 2003 and 2000 were record years (457 + 482).

Sunday 28 December 2008

Mass Intentions are now few and far between. If it were not for Holy Souls Intentions we would be without Mass Intentions.

Monday 29 December 2008

Father Barry Matthews said the morning Mass (not midday and all week during Father Gordon's absence in Ireland where he is attending the blessing of the new Abbot of Glenstal.

2008

Annual Statistics show that the average Saturday+Sunday weekend Mass attendances are 199 souls. This has varied little since the cessation of the 0830 Mass in 1999 when attendances were 245 (25% of known Parishioners).
2000 = 216, 2001 = 201, 2002 = 185, 2003 = 178, 2004 = 192, 2005 = 201, 2006 = 197, 2007 = 209. 199 attending is 20% of known Parishioners. Neighbouring Benedictine Parishes have shown a very much greater decrease in the same period – 13% or 9% attendance.