

2011

Saturday 1 January 2011

Father Barry Matthews said Mass at 1100 due to Father Gordon's absence north of the Tartan Curtain.

Monday 10 January 2011

The last of the Christmas Mail arrived – post franked 16 December – a mere twenty-five days!

Sunday 23 January 2011

The Ecumenical Service for the Octave of Prayer for Church Unity was held by the former Pentecostal Church in the Village Hall. 44 were present including 11 from OLAS.

Saturday 29 January 2011

Eighteen out of nineteen Confirmation Candidates (Years 8, 9 and 10 with one from Year 11) were presented to the Parish at the Vigil Mass.

Sunday 30 January 2011

Eighteen – out of a possible twenty-one – were presented to the Parish at the 1000 Mass as they prepare for First Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion.

Thursday 3 February 2011

At the request of a Parishioner an hour of Prayer and meditation will be held each Thursday after evening Mass from 1930 until 2030. This is to pray for the Sick of the Parish.

Monday 28 February 2011

Despite the November snows and a very cold December the daffodils appeared (in 2006 they did not appear until 8 March, although in 2008 it was 8 February).

Wednesday 9 March 2011

Ash Wednesday – the latest date since 1943. The evening Mass, held at 1930 – since 2000 – was held at 1900.

Friday 11 March 2011

A very large Funeral – the second largest in the past ten years. There were over 450 present (250 Holy Communions) for the repose of the soul of a 34 year old mother of three young children – Kathryn Curran. The Abbot of Farnborough, two Canons of the Liverpool Archdiocese and two Priests concelebrated. Excellent Stewarding and Car Parking was arranged by Tony Charnock.

Monday 28 March 2011

Assisted by Monsignor Peter and Father Barry, Father Gordon led the Penitential Service for nineteen children of the School and Parish who were making their First Confessions.

Wednesday 30 March 2011

Father Barry supplied and will do so until next Tuesday during Father Gordon's absence.

Weekend 2 + 3 April 2011

A Gift Aid Renewal weekend was promoted at the weekend Masses. This was led by a Shrewsbury Parishioner and his wife, Derek and Jane Pearce, with the object of getting approximately sixty more Mass goers to Gift Aid – who do not do so at the moment.

Sunday 17 April 2011

Although the School has been on holiday since 8 April it was still possible to have a Children's Mime for the Palm Sunday Gospel. This was supervised by the Little Church.

Monday 18 April 2011

At the request of the Music Group a £1,200 Digital Piano was purchased to assist with the Church Music once a fortnight. The Piano is stored in the Confessional.

For the first time in twenty-two years a Parish Council Meeting was held. This took place in the Church Meeting Room attended by thirteen.

As a result of the debacle in 1989 the Parish Council had been suspended. In October last year 66% of those at Mass were in favour of its resurrection.

Unfortunately the enthusiasm of the Parish afterwards meant that only half of the twenty-two Parish organisations were willing to nominate a representative. As a result the Meeting tonight became that of a Parish Pastoral Advisory Group.

Stephen Marston was elected the Chairman of the PPAG.

Tuesday 19 April 2011

The Holy Week Service of Penance and Reconciliation was held – along the lines of that held in Advent – Exposition, Adoration and Reflection. Monsignor Peter McGuire and Fr Barry assisted.

Saturday 23 April 2011

The lowest ever recorded attendance at the Easter Vigil Ceremonies – 45 – despite Maundy Thursday and Good Friday having average attendances.

Sunday 24 April 2011

The latest Easter since 1943 (25 April). Attendance at morning Mass was average for Easter Sunday morning.

Friday 29 April 2011

Mass today, usually at 1000 during Easter week, was held at 0930. This was to allow Parishioners to return to their TV sets to watch the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William and Katherine Middleton.

Sunday 1 May 2011

After the 1000 Mass a surprise seventieth Birthday Party was provided for Father Gordon with many goodies provided as well as many Birthday Cards and presents.

Monday 2 May 2011

Fr Barry said Mass and will do so on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday due to Fr Gordon's absence at Ampleforth on annual Retreat.

Weekend 14+15 May 2011

Over 100 Parishioners were absent at a Parish Camp near Settle in the Dales – and they did not attend Mass there!

Weekend 21+22 May 2011

Father Barry supplied whilst Father Gordon, five Catechists and nineteen Confirmation Candidates, were on Retreat at Ampleforth

Tuesday 31 May 2011

It is supposed to have been the driest Spring on record – maybe for the South but not in the North.

Thursday 9 June 2011

The body of Father Kenneth Smith, who lived just outside the Parish bounds, in Bispham, was received into Church for a Reception Mass said by Father Gordon. Father Kenneth, aged 89, died suddenly at home on Monday 30 May. His parents are buried at Our Lady and All Saints and his body will be interred next to them. Four Archdiocesan Priests concelebrated the Mass.

Friday 10 June 2011

A quiet day in the life of a country Parish.

- a) The Archbishop, Bishop Vincent and sixteen Archdiocesan Priests concelebrated Father Kenneth Smith's Requiem Mass at 1000.
 - b) At 1230 Father Gordon solemnised a Wedding.
 - c) At 1900 Bishop Vincent returned to confirm eighteen Confirmation Candidates.
- Overall throughout the day nearly four hundred people have been present in Our Lady and All Saints Church.

Friday 17 June 2011

The annual Mass in honour of St John Rigby was held in Harrock Hall. Although one hundred were present only three of them were Parishioners from OLAS.

Sunday 19 June 2011

Seventeen children made their First Holy Communions – including four from Parbold Douglas CE School! Over three hundred and forty-five attended Mass.

Sunday 26 June 2011

The Annual Corpus Christi Procession after the 1000 Mass. 146 attended Mass and the Procession had returned to Church by 1100!

After the Procession the annual Parish Fête took place in the School grounds. Not a good attendance and not a good display. Only £472 was raised for Church Funds compared with £1,115 last year.

Wednesday 29 June 2011

Father Barry supplied for the Holyday Masses and will continue to do so until next Wednesday as a result of Father Gordon's absence.

Only eighteen people attended the 1900 evening Mass – a record low attendance!

Thursday 30 June 2011

A series of national public sector strikes in protest over the Governments fiscal policies. Most Schools in the country are closed – but not OLAS RC Primary School "we never closed"!

Friday 15 July 2011

In the evening the Mayor of West Lancashire Borough opened the new School extended and remodelled Classrooms and ICT Centre. The Mayor is a School Governor and Parent and only lives next door to the School! Father Gordon blessed the extensions and remodelled work. These had cost approximately £250,000 – most of which was met by the Archdiocese.

Saturday 16 July 2011

The School held what is now an annual Football tournament. Despite an extremely wet start to the day the tournament went ahead. Twelve different teams played. OLAS came 5/6 in the under 9s and 3/6 in the over 9s. The prize for the top player went to an OLAS pupil.

Monday 18 July 2011

The School had its annual award evening (Prize Giving) in Church – for the second year running.

Thursday 20 July 2011

Yet another School event – the annual Leavers' Mass – was held in Church.

Tuesday + Wednesday 16+17 August 2011

Father Gordon was absent at Ampleforth for Chapter. For the first time, certainly in twelve years, but maybe even for longer, the Parish had two subsequent days of Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion seeing that no supply Priest was available. Fortunately Deacon David was able to conduct them. There have been occasions of one day at a time - usually a Wednesday - of Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist when Father Gordon has taken a Month Day.

Wednesday 17 August 2011

In the late afternoon a teenager was mugged in the Church grounds resulting in a Police call out by the aforementioned teenager.

Wednesday 31 August 2011

The coldest summer in twenty years.....?global warming?!

Friday 2 September 2011

With Fr Gordon due to leave for his summer break a leak developed in his upstairs toilet dripping all the way down into the cellar!

Saturday 3 September 2011

The water in the PP's toilet has to be turned off until a plumber can repair – then the Microwave imploded and blew the trip switch for all the Mains Sockets in the Priory!

In these days of Parishes being without Priests there were five Priests at Our Lady and All Saints today! Father Gordon, Father Vincent Fedigan conducting a wedding in the afternoon, Father Jimmy Smaile CSSR, conducting the Annual Foreign Mission Appeal, and Father Xavier Irudayasamy OFM Cap who arrived yesterday. Father Xavier will be supplying during Father Gordon's annual absence, until Monday 26 September (Father Gordon will be preaching in his home Parish on Sunday 25 September). The fifth priest is Father Barry who will be supplying at Notre Dame Convent throughout September. The Convent lost their Chaplain, Monsignor McGuire, on 29 June, due to retirement, and have not had a resident Chaplain since – their own desire.

Wednesday 28 September 2011

26°C – an Indian summer after a very wet and cold September.

Weekend 1+2 October 2011

The new translation of the Roman Missal was introduced today throughout the Archdiocese of Liverpool – although nationally this happened during the first weekend of September (Liverpool – LCP – Local Church Practice!). At OLAS only the People's responses will be in use. We shall introduce the whole Missal on the first Sunday of Advent.

Weekend 8+9 October 2011

Father Justin Price OSB, of Ampleforth, supplied whilst Fr Gordon was, yet again, up in Scotland (attending the Fort Augustus Old Boys Association Annual Dinner with Cardinal Keith O'Brien).

Tuesday 1 November 2011

A holyday of obligation. Due to the very poor attendance at 1900 on the feast of St Peter and St Paul the 1900 Mass tonight was held in the Retro Choir. Unfortunately what was not catered for was the abolition of the evening holyday Mass at Burscough – with the result that three had to attend in the Lady Chapel.

Wednesday 2 November 2011

Peter Madden organised and conducted a Bereavement Service at which over twenty attended.

Sunday 20 November 2011

Peter Madden organised a Youth Mass – alas not many youth (even 2011 Confirmation Candidates) participated.

In the evening the village *yooof* moved one of the outdoor benches into the Porch for their smoking, drinking and drug sessions. Cigarette ends and four pill capsules were later discovered. In the summer the *yooof* had vandalised three light bollards and removed a holy water stoop as well as using holy water stoops for purposes for which they were not designed.

Weekend 26+27 November 2011

The new Translation of the Roman Missal came into use, although the People's responses have been used since October. The Parish purchased an American copy of the Chapel edition for €99 and this was solemnly blessed at the 1000 Mass. The CTS Chapel edition (£115) was "out of print". In its place the CTS hoped everyone would purchase their Altar edition at £230. Our Chapel edition had to be purchased in Ireland due to the Hierarchy having banned its importation in order to promote CTS sales.

Sunday 27 November 2011

The annual Advent Fayre, run by the Parish, School and PTFA, was held in the School after 1000 Mass. A much better presentation and attendance than in previous years – probably helped by the enlargement of the School classrooms.

Three weeks in advance the shell of the Christmas Crib was brought up from the Cellar. Next week it will be in position – empty. The following week the animals will be placed in it and on the fourth Sunday of Advent the servants. This is in an attempt to slowly acclimatise the faithful for the Christian Christmas and to take away their thoughts from the consumerism outside the Church!

Wednesday 7 December 2011

A front page article appeared in the *Champion* Newspaper complete with colour photo of the Church concerning the vandalism and drug problems we have been experiencing.

Thursday 8 December 2011

Father Barry supplied and will do so tomorrow due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth for Chapter.

Wednesday 14 December 2011

Over two hundred and fifty, plus six concelebrating clergy, attended the Requiem Mass for Gerald Hitchen. Bishop John Rawsthorne of Hallam presided.

In the evening the School performed their Advent Reflection in the Church.

Friday 16 December 2011

The first snows –small and not long lasting.

Tuesday 20 December 2011

Fifty-three attended the annual Advent Service of Reconciliation. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Gordon was assisted by Father Barry.

Saturday 24 + Sunday 25 December 2011

A very warm Christmas +12°C compared with last year's frost and snow. Alas because of this many Parishioners vacated the Parish so that attendances at Midnight (2300) and the morning (1000) Mass were the lowest ever. A total of 366 – although at 1000 there were more present than in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

Saturday 31 December 2011

Father Colin OSB, Prior of St Benedict's Monastery, Brownedge, supplied for the weekend Sunday Masses due to Father Gordon's absence north of the Tartan Curtain.