

2013

Tuesday 1 January 2013

Father Barry Matthews said Mass today due to Father Gordon's absence north of the Tartan Curtain. He will also supply tomorrow and Thursday due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth for the Abbatial election caucus

Monday 7 January 2013

Archbishop Patrick Kelly of Liverpool, recovering from a stroke before Christmas and who will be 75 on 23 November, has tendered his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI.

Thursday 10 January 2013

The School finished their Ofsted Inspection. Everyone was smiling so it looks as if the Inspection has gone well see *24 January*

Monday 14 January 2013

Father Edgar, the Steward at Ampleforth, called to collect Ciboria, Chalices, Candle Sticks and the old Altar Gates.

Thursday 17 January 2013

The first snow of 2013. Local Motorway gantries say "Severe Weather Conditions Friday".

Friday 18 January 2013

Only fifty per cent of pupils attended OLAS RC School today – "because of the weather". St Bede's High School was closed. There was very little snow at Parbold and the roads were perfectly clear – but panic had taken over due to Radio and TV announcements of "severe weather, stay at home"!

Saturday 19 January 2013

Over sixty were present at the 1100 Mass in thanksgiving for the ninetieth birthday of Kitty Eccles. Kitty had been Father David O'Brien's housekeeper in the late seventies and eighties. Father David came to concelebrate as did Father Anselm, the Oblate Master from Ampleforth, Kitty being an Oblate of the Abbey.

Sunday 20 January 2013

The annual Ecumenical Service for Church Unity was held at 1530 in Christ Church, Newburgh. A total of thirty were present, including ten from OLAS.

Tuesday 22 January 2013

A Surveyor and Structural Engineer came to investigate the bridge across the Alder Lane Brook. Just before Christmas the bridge lost its supporting pillar as a result of the heavy flow of water due to the excessive rains/flows in the past month/months. A lot more damage was done adjacent to the School for which Lancashire County Council have responsibility for repair.

Thursday 24 January 2013

Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School were given Outstanding in their recent Ofsted report. Only one of seven Schools in Lancashire.

Saturday 26 January 2013

The M6 between Junctions 25 (Wigan) and 27 (Parbold) was closed throughout the night because of snow – six hours for those marooned in that section!
A thirty-three feet tall Leylandi was uprooted and fell onto the Priory Lawn due to the weight of snow on its branches. There were accidents on Parbold Hill and from sledging in the fields nearby. Despite the snow not being really deep only 28 Parishioners attended the 1800 Vigil Mass.

Tuesday 29 January 2013

Father Barry Matthews left for a six week visit to his "home" diocese of Cape Town.

Saturday 2 February 2013

At 1800, on this Feast of the Presentation, nine children from years 4+5 plus one from year 6, were presented to the Parish as they commenced their catechesis for Confirmation at Pentecost. OLAS Confirmation candidates are usually from Years 9 and 10 but the Archdiocese is now implementing a new Catechetical programme which means Confirmation and Communion will now be in Year 4. Until 2012 OLAS children made their Communion in Year 2 so there will be no Communion candidates this year or next year.

Tuesday 5 February 2013

The second winter bout of snow.

Monday 11 February 2013

A unique day for the Parish - en route to no Pope, no Archbishop (see 27 and 28 February) and no Abbot! The Abbot of Ampleforth resigned, after his statutory eight years in office, the Archbishop of Liverpool had already tendered his resignation on Monday 7 January and today Pope Benedict XVI tendered his resignation – the first Pope in over 600 years.

Tuesday 12 February 2013

Monsignor Peter Fleetwood supplied today due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth for the Abbatial election. Deacon David had conducted a Communion Service yesterday – at which over thirty people attended (Our Lady of Lourdes).

The Community at Ampleforth re-elected Abbot Cuthbert Madden as their Abbot.

Wednesday 13 February 2013

Then lowest ever attendance for the Ashes – only 18 at the evening Mass. Morning numbers were slightly up due to the presence of the School.

Sunday 24 February 2013

Eileen Queally, the Church Sacristan, was found dead at home in Newburgh. She was still standing at her kitchen sink. She had been dead for 24 hours having died on Saturday, her 86th birthday. RIP.

Wednesday 27 February 2013

Pope Benedict, in one of his last acts in office, has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Patrick Kelly as Archbishop of Liverpool.

Thursday 28 February 2013

At 1900 GMT Pope Benedict XVI formally resigned his office as Supreme Pontiff. Our Lady and All Saints Parbold now have Sede vacante for both Pope and Archbishop!

Friday 1 March 2013

The 0915 Mass was cancelled to allow a 1400 Mass in the School to celebrate the awarding of Outstanding Status as a result of the January Ofsted. This was followed by a Buffet Disco and Fireworks at 1800.

Thursday 7 March 2013

Monsignor Peter Fleetwood supplied to-day and will do so tomorrow whilst Father Gordon is absent for his Lenten exercises – Christmas break!. At the weekend and for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Father Colin OSB from St Benedict's Monastery Brownedge will supply.

Wednesday 13 March 2013

At 1806 (GMT) the white puff of smoke from the Vatican announced the election of the first Jesuit Pope, the first from Latin America – Pope Francis I. Unfortunately the Church Bell at Parbold did not ring due to Father Gordon being marooned at Paris Charles de Gaulle for seventeen hours on his way back from Rome.

Weekend 16+ 17 March 2013

Deacon David was absent on the Deacons' Retreat. There was no Server (ill) and no Sacristan (dead!).

Monday 18 March 2013

Very slowly the daffodils are beginning to appear – in 2008 they appeared on 8 February and despite a very cold 2010-2011 they appeared on 28 February 2011.

Thursday 21 March 2013

The Solemnity of St Benedict with no Benedictine Priest. Fr Gordon was at Ampleforth for Chapter. Monsignor Fleetwood supplied and tomorrow there will be a Service of Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word and Communion.

Friday 22 March 2013

The Spring Solstice – *spring is sprung but winter ain't done!* Heavy snow all over the north.

Sunday 24 March 2013

Palm Sunday with no outdoor procession last night or this morning! This is not due to snow – not really in evidence) but due to the severe cold. Also no Children's Gospel Mime due to there being no opportunity for a rehearsal with Father Gordon being away Wednesday to Friday and Deacon David also being away.

Monday 25 March 2013

The Lenten Service of Reconciliation. Due to Father Barry being in South Africa Fr Stephen OSB from St Mary's Leyland came to assist. Over fifty attended.

Tuesday 26 March 2013

The School held their Easter reflection in Church.

Sunday 31 March 2013

Easter Sunday. The coldest Easter Sunday on record. There are still snow drifts in the fields at the top of Parbold Hill. The coldest March in 50 years.

Attendances at the Triduum were better than last year but below average for the past ten years.

Wednesday 17 April 2013

Father Barry Matthews returned from his eleven weeks sojourn in South Africa.

The Daffodils in the wood are now fully in bloom – two months later than previous years.

Sunday 21 April 2013

Father Gordon completed the rough draft compilation of a Memorial Book containing 980 names of all those whose names are recorded in the *Libri Defunctorum* of the Parish. This exercise was not helped by the Parish Anniversary Book containing 196 names not recorded in the *Libri Defunctorum* nor 376 names which were not recorded in the Anniversary book!

Monday 22 April 2013

Jean Benyon, Priory Cleaner since 4 May 2004 and Church Cleaner since 2003, tendered her resignation today due to ill health, coupled with the fact that she is 75 years of age.

Tuesday 30 April 2013

The School had a Religious Inspection from the Archdiocese – as a follow on from Ofsted. The Parish Priest was also interviewed. The result was another “outstanding” report.

Saturday 4 May 2013

At 0830 Fr Gordon waved bon voyage to 49 Parishioners travelling by Coach to Ampleforth for a day’s pilgrimage as part of the Year of Faith. An additional 13 Parishioners had preceded them by Car.

Tuesday 7 May 2013

The first time the thermometer has risen above 20°C this year.

Saturday 11 May 2013

Abbot Cuthbert came for the weekend on Visitation.

Monday 13 May 2013

Twelve of the brethren joined Fr Abbot and Fr Gordon at a Parish Fathers’ Meeting which was held in the Church Meeting room, along with two of the Abbot’s Admin Staff and Canon Luiz Ruscillo of Lancaster who was giving a paper on Catholic Schools. Pat Bennett prepared lunch for seventeen, using the Dining Room and Sitting Room.

Saturday 18 May 2013

At the 1800 Mass Father Gordon conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on nine Candidates from Years 4 and 5 – in line with the Archdiocese’s new policy for the Sacraments of Initiation.

Sunday 19 May 2013

The 1000 Mass was a Children’s Mass celebrating the Birthday of the Church – Pentecost. There was a Mime and much activity with Birthday Cards, Birthday Cake and Helium balloons – which fortunately did not leak! More attended Mass this weekend than at the Easter weekend!

Sunday 2 June 2013

The sixtieth anniversary of the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth – and the feast of Corpus Christi. The Corpus Christi Procession was cancelled.

Unfortunately the Convent’s logistics prevented them hosting the procession as usual. A proposal had been made to process to the School fields but the low trees, narrow gate, steps and ramp put paid to that idea. A proposal to go to and process around the grass triangle to the SW of Church and back into Church had been vetoed by the PPAG on Monday 20 May. The PPAG advised that everyone stayed in Church and that Father processed on his own with the Monstrance. The Liturgy Offices of Ampleforth and Liverpool vetoed this “travesty”. As a result, this year, a compromise of twenty minutes Exposition at the end of the 1000 Mass, using the same hymns and readings as if there had been a Procession!

Two pheasants – Mr and Mrs – appeared with twelve chicks! We also have a young hen as a new inmate of the garden and two ducks.

Tuesday 4 June 2013

The second time this year that the thermometer has risen above 20°C (first time was 7 May).

Friday 14 June 2013

The annual Mass (omitted last year) in honour of the Parish’s Martyr, St John Rigby, was held in the Barn at Harrock Hall. As usual arranged by the PP of St Joseph’s Wrightington.

Weekend 14-16 June 2013

What is now becoming an "annual" Parish Camp took place at Settle. There were 34 adults and 35 children present. As last year – not a weekend blessed with summer weather. Nevertheless, despite their absence, there were 132 at Mass this weekend (115 last year).

Thursday 20 June 2013

Father Barry supplied and will do so until Wednesday of next week due to Father Gordon's annual absence in Ireland.

Monday 24 until Wednesday 26 June 2013

Three nights of medieval Mystery Plays were held in Church – preceded by Supper in the grounds. This is part of the Parish's *Year of Faith*. The objective being Evangelisation through the Mystery Plays. The Mystery Plays were run by Deacon David with thirty actors and fifteen "helpers". Admission was free. Over 260 attended. The costs of £1,857 were covered by Donations from those involved.

Friday 28 June 2013

The whole School attended Morning Mass in thanksgiving for the Year of Faith, the Sacramental programme and the Ofsted Report.

Tuesday 2 July 2013

Steeplejacks came to carry out quinquennial repairs to the Spire and Tower. Very little work however "due to the wind".

Thursday 4 July 2013

Summer may be beginning.....

Saturday 6 July 2013

Yes summer is here!

Sunday 7 July 2013

Weekend Mass attendances are really dropping – only 150+ this weekend compared with 170+ ten years ago.

A Scottish victory at Wimbledon – the first since 1896 – though an Englishman won in 1936.

Monday 8 July 2013

More work from the Steeplejacks due to the excellent weather, sun, no wind, 24°C.

Saturday 13 July 2013

The annual Parbold Village Festival returned to its former site on Alder Lane fields. A great success – helped by the fact it was the alleged warmest day of the year (80°F/26.5°C in the Priory Utilities Room, 76°F/25°C in other rooms), yet a nice breeze from the north. Parbold Douglas CE Church had a Tent but not OLAS!

Thursday 18 July 2013

Starting the second week of summer! In the South temperatures yesterday were 89.6°F/32°C – although in the north west only 80.6°F/27°C was the highest.

Monday 22 July 2013

School Prizegiving in the Church. Extremely long and hot (everyone and their dog appeared to get a Prize).

Sunday 28 July 2013

The end of 24 days hot and sunny weather. Still hot, but wet!

Thursday 15 August 2013

Holyday evening Mass in the Retro Choir – only 24 present!

Tuesday 20 August 2013

After a gap of six weeks the Steeplejacks returned to complete the pointing of the Tower and Spire and installation of new louvers in the Belfry.

Thursday 30 August 2013

Father Aloysius Ezeoba, from Nigeria, via Rome, came to supply during Father Gordon's annual summer absence.

Tuesday 3 September 2013

The School returned, but our Headteacher, Mrs Claire Griffin, due to her success in obtaining an "outstanding School" for Ofsted has now got to help out at St Joseph's Wrightington School for half a week, each week.

Saturday 7 September 2013

Over 25 attended a Vigil of Prayer, called by Pope Francis, to pray for peace in Syria.

Sunday 22 September 2013

The 1000 Mass was full for a Harvest Mass. The Church was decorated (as in the tradition of Father David O'Brien) by the Children encouraged by Adults. The Children also carried out the Readings.

Monday 7 October 2013

At the Parish Pastoral Advisory Group Meeting (Parish Council) Father Gordon announced the retirement of Fr Kevin Mulhearn, from being Parish Priest at St Joseph's Wrightington. Fr Kevin is eighty-six years of age. Father Gordon also announced that he personally had "had enough of non sacramental administrative" work. The PPAG set up a sub committee to investigate further.

Thursday 9 October 2013

Autumn temperatures have arrived.

Tuesday 15 October 2013

Father Barry Matthews supplied during Father Gordon's annual Retreat. Regretfully Father Barry's supplies will be coming to an end since he is now going to return to his diocese of Cape Town in South Africa.

Monday 21 October 2013

Julia Brook, the Abbot's Personal Assistant for the Parishes, came for the day, visitating both the School and The Priory.

Monday 28 October 2013

The autumnal storms arrived!

Thursday 31 October 2013

With a normal evening Mass on Thursdays at 1900, tonight's Mass was a Vigil Mass for All Saints and tomorrow's evening Mass was cancelled. As a result the largest attendance at a Holyday "Evening Mass" since 2006 (27 last year), yet the day Mass on Friday 1 November was normal at 54

Sunday 3 November 2013

The two volumes of the new Memorial Books containing the names of all those whose funerals were at Our Lady and All Saints as well as those who are buried in our Cemetery, were blessed.

Monday 4 November 2013

The first frost of the season – pullover weather!

Wednesday 6 November 2013

Peter Madden conducted a, what is now becoming an annual, Bereavement Service during this month of the Holy Souls at which over fifty attended.

Friday 15 November 2013

Two ravens have appeared to be taking up residence in the Church Tower. Local ornithologists say they only know of two other Ravens in the locality – Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Query have these two migrated to the true Church – and very appropriately, due to St Benedict's life having been saved by a Raven, a Benedictine Church?

Friday 22 November 2013

Mrs Rosie Cooper, the Labour Member of Parliament for West Lancashire, paid a visit to our School.

Sunday 24 November 2013

Peter Madden produced a Youth Mass, on this Feast of Christ the King and Youth Sunday.

Sunday 1 December 2013

The Annual School and Parish Advent Fayre was held in the School. Takings were up 30%.

Tuesday 3 December 2013

The Church and Priory Cleaner, Janet Cheetham, departed, having handed in her notice one month ago.

Tuesday 10 December 2013

A new Cleaner arrived, for the Priory only, Jenny Rampling.

Sunday 15 December 2013

Over 180 attended the 1000 Mass which was a Children's Mass to celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Over 30 children took part commencing with Christmas Gifts being presented for ongoing distribution to less fortunate children, via Nugent Care.

Tuesday 17 December 2013

The School had their Advent Reflection (a well sung Nativity Play) in Church at 1830. The Church was packed with standing room only.

Thursday 19 December 2013

The Advent Service of Reconciliation assisted by Father Barry. It was attended by 65 people – up twelve and a half per cent from last year.

Tuesday 24 December 2013

The attendance at Midnight Mass (2300-0015) was the highest since 2003 – yet with good stewarding none were in the Retro Choir. Father Barry concelebrated with Father Gordon.

Wednesday 25 December 2013

Attendance at the 1000 Mass was normal – 182. The total Christmas attendance was the second highest in the past ten years,