

2006

Sunday 1 January 2006

Father Mark Beattie OCD said the Sunday (Saturday) Masses (although he did not reside in the Priory) due to Father Gordon's absence, Father Kenneth Smith will be saying Mass on Monday 2 January and Tuesday 3 January. Father Raphael OSB, who will be in residence from 2 January until 8 January, will say the morning Mass on Wednesday 4 January.

Monday 16 January 2006

As a result of the Risk Management Inspection in October the rear work area of the Sacristy which had to have a new wood covering placed on the floor, had this covering covered with new linoleum. One small 2.5" hole (probably caused by a stiletto heel) cost £300 to repair!

Sunday 22 January 2006

The Service for Church Unity Week was held at 1500 in Parbold Village Hall. It was hosted by Elim Pentecostal Church and was very Pentecostal in flavour! About 90 were present including 26 from Our Lady and All Saints.

Monday 23 January 2006

Five roof tiles were replaced on the Church roof (as well as weeds removed from one gutter). The cheapest quote was from an abseiler - £870.

Tuesday 31 January 2006

Class 3 from the School attended the weekday Mass in honour of St Alban Roe OSB.

Sunday 5 February 2006

14 (out of 15) children from the School were presented at Mass for their Sacramental Programme. There was also one Lutheran girl and one Methodist boy.

Friday 10 February 2006

Class 4 from the School attended the weekday mass in honour of St Scholastica OSB

Thursday 16 February 2006

The first cutting of the grass – after a cold spell. However the Daffodils are not yet out compared with 1 February last year (13 Feb 2004, 27 Feb 2003, 20 Feb 2002).

Monday 27 February 2006

The first Daffodil appeared – but only one and very tentative!

Wednesday 1 March 2006 – Ash Wednesday

The first Daffodil collapsed and no others appeared! Wales, Scotland and the entire East coast heavily affected with Snow and drifting – but Parbold has a beautiful sunny (if cold) day with no snow!

Thursday 2 March 2006

See *above* “no snow” – Snow fell this morning – the second time this winter, but again only a cake icing coverage although in areas not affected by the sun it remained for the day.

Saturday 4 March 2006

Winter has come – at 1700 last night. Snow fell and is still with us – more than your usual icing on the cake. However a lovely sunny day (but not warm enough to melt the snow).

Sister Joan RNDM made the Annual Mission Appeal at both Masses this weekend.

Monday 6 March 2006

68 were present for a Lenten Penance Service during which 15 children made their First Confessions (14 since 1 was making his second Confession). 1830 to 1920 with 3 Priests. Unfortunately very few of the Parents led by example to go to Confession.

Wednesday 8 March 2006

The Daffodils are making a great effort to come out – probably will succeed tomorrow – a month later than last year.

Thursday 9 March 2006

In Father Gordon's absence Father Barry supplies at all Masses until next Wednesday, including the weekend but not the Saturday 1100 Mass which Father Kenneth will say.

Friday 10 March 2006

A CAFOD Family Fast Lunch was held at 4 Brookfield at which £105 was donated.

Saturday 11 March 2006

.....and there was snow throughout the land including Parbold.

A Parish Quiz Night was held in the School – as a result of which £100 was donated to the Parish, £100 to the PTA and £50 to Jospice.

Sunday 26 March 2006

Eric Petrossian, formerly a stand up comedian – gave his one man dramatisation of the Gospels, in Church. An extremely good, professional and moving performance. It was attended by all the Churches of Parbold and Newburgh – but alas not in good numbers (OLAS = 32, Elim = 14, CCN = 10, CCP = 10)

March 2006

The Archdiocese recently introduced "Safe Harbours" – or to be more precise "Leaving Safe Harbours" – as they plan their way ahead due to the forthcoming expected shortage of Priests. Should Parbold ever become an Archdiocesan Parish Parbold would be part of a group consisting of Wrightington, Upholland, Orrell, Shevington, Standish and Skelmersdale. There would be 4 Priests looking after this area. Meetings are to take place at Parish, Deanery and Archdiocesan level to discuss this. Unfortunately due to Parbold being a Benedictine Parish the problem for Parbold is slightly hypothetical, although in July 2000 the Mass goers did vote to "go in" with Upholland and Wrightington – but not Skelmersdale!

Saturday 1 April 2006

The School PTA had a Spring Dinner Dance at the Wrightington Country Club and raised over £1,380 for Funds. Being Lent the Parish Priest did not attend!

Tuesday 4 April 2006

Fr Barry Matthews said this morning's mass (and tomorrow's) due to Father Gordon's absence at a Chapter Meeting at Ampleforth.

The Probation Service came with young men currently serving community services. They started clearing up in the woods and in the area outside the Church Cellar. Overtures had been made to the Skelmersdale Probation Offices in 2002 to no avail. An approach to the Head Office Preston produced results!

Saturday 8 April 2006

Over 300 (many of them teenagers) attended the Funeral Mass of a 17 year old Parishioner who had committed Suicide, on the Railway, on Sunday 26 March.

The Cortege left Church to the sounds of "*You'll never walk alone*" – to be led to the Grave by an Irish bagpiper. 4 Teenagers inquired as to membership of the RC Church!

Sunday 9 April 2006

Despite a heavy wind it was possible to have the Palm Sunday procession from the Priory Garage to Church at both weekend Masses. The children, dressed in dressing gowns and tea towels provided a Mime during the Gospel.

Monday 10 April 2006

59 attended the Lenten Penance Service. Fr Gordon was assisted by Fr Barry with both Priests giving individual absolution.

Tuesday 11 April 2006

Instead of the usual performance in the School the Children provided a short Holy Week-Easter Reflection in Church at 1400 and 1830.

Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 April 2006

Attendances at the Triduum this year were much better than in previous years. It was fairly universal throughout England that Easter Sunday attendances were also high,

Tuesday 25 April 2006

Father Kenneth Smith supplied plus Wednesday and Friday during Father Gordon's absence on annual Retreat at Ampleforth. Father Barry Matthews said Mass on Thursday night.

Tuesday 2 May 2006

An aspirant Altar Server commenced training – the first in two years!

Thursday 4 May 2006

The hottest day of the year – so far – very nice and pleasant.

Sunday 7 May 2006

The Belmont NW Association had, what is now becoming an annual, Mass in our Church. Fr Philip Smith (Lancaster Diocese and former monk of Belmont) said the 1200 Mass.

Tuesday 10 May 2006

"Teen Challenge" presented a witness in our Church on giving up addiction to Drugs. This was an Ecumenical event and the Young People were housed in Parishioners homes for the night – as well as the homes of other Christians in Parbold. Unfortunately Father Gordon was absent due to family commitments.

Friday 12 May 2006

A Parish Coffee Evening was held simultaneously in 9 different homes in the Parish to help raise funds for the summer Fair.

Saturday 13 May 2006

The 1100 Mass was said in the main body of the Church (not in the Retro Choir) due to there being over 75 present. 17 Children from the School on their 1st Communion Retreat, the Parents of the First Communicants, 20 +Teenagers for the Mass Intention (Charlie McConn RIP 26 March aged 17) and c.15 Associates of Notre Dame who were having a regional Meeting in the Meeting Room.

Weekend 13+14 May 2006

The Chairman of the School Governors made an appeal at the end of the weekend Masses for donations to assist with the extension of the Classrooms in the School. A request was also to be made to Ampleforth for a bridging loan of £50,000 due to the Archdiocese not having that sum available until after 6 April 2007.

Sunday 21 May 2006

16 children (15 from the School + one Parishioner) made their 1st Holy Communion on a wet dreich day. Based on the number of communicants and previous years over 340 were expected in Church but it was pleasantly filled at 262.

Monday 5 June 2006

Four electricians came – for the week – to test all circuits and portable appliances in the Priory and the Church. This is now a health and safety requirement by our Insurers.

Tuesday 6 June 2006

666! 06/06/06

The beginnings of the second warm spell of the year (after May 9-12).

The Parish Finance Committee met to approve the Accounts from 1 September 2004 until 31 August 2005. They proposed that we should try and budget for 10% of our Income to be laid aside each year - in deposit - "for a rainy day".

Friday 9 June 2006

78° F in the Priory even at 2300 at night!

Saturday 10 June 2006

Five intermittent power cuts between 1145 and 1315 – if it was America it would be the air conditioning switching on due to the heat – but doubtful in Parbold. Nor could it be the Television sets switching on for the first English Match of the World Cup since the match did not commence until 1400.

An extremely poor congregation at the 1800 Mass - less than 60 were present. The remainder no doubt in stupor at home celebrating England's 1-0 win against Paraguay, even though the Match finished at 1545.

Weekend 10+11 June 2006

Prior Cassian Dickie OSB, from St Benedict's Monastery Brownedge, said the Saturday 1800 Mass and Fr Martin Haigh OSB of St Mary's Leyland said the Sunday 1000 Mass. Father Martin supplied at Parbold from June until September 1999.

Father Gordon was out of the country – not in Germany where the World Cup had commenced yesterday, Friday, but in Scotland for the surrender of his home Parish in Lanark to the Diocese of Motherwell by the Vincentians who had cared for it for 147 years.

Sunday 11 June 2006

82°F inside the Priory at 1830! 86° in Lincolnshire.

Monday 12 June 2006

The end of the very hot spell!

Wednesday 14 June 2006

Only six attended the 0915 weekday Mass!

Saturday 17 June 2006

From 1400 to 1600 the Parish Garden Fête was held. Father Barry Matthews conducted the opening ceremony – and won first prize in the Raffle! A good number of people, Parishioners and non-Parishioners attended, including the Chairman of West Lancashire District Council, Councillor May Blake and her Consort John Blake (who is a Parishioner). Proceedings were helped by a lovely and very warm day,

Sunday 18 June 2006

The Annual Corpus Christi Procession was held after the 1000 Mass. Despite being overcast and small precipitation the Procession to Notre Dame Convent proceeded with not too many getting wet.

Weekend 24 + 25 June 2006

Father Barry Matthews supplied during Fr Gordon's Easter week. He has said weekday Mass since Thursday and apart from Monday (26 June – Father Kenneth Smith) will say Mass until Wednesday 28 June.

Wednesday 28 June 2006`

The third warm spell commences.

Saturday 1 July 2006

Only 45 attended the 1800 Mass – possibly the lowest attendance ever! This was due to England once again being knocked out of the Football World Cup Quarter Finals, coupled with Wigan Warriors winning their Rugby League game! Could also be due to the hot spell getting hotter!

Sunday 2 July 2006

Due to the now very hot weather there were flash floods in Cheshire, Manchester, Lancashire and the NW – lightning hit a house in Wigan. Yet, in Parbold, not a drop of rain!

Friday 7 July 2006

End of the hot spell to a mild drop in temperature – thank goodness! It has been 84° in the Study during the afternoons this past week + 80° every night upstairs at 2300. This is mild compared with the south of England which was experiencing temperatures of 90°.

A postulant server, Harry Marston, commenced serving on his own today.

At 1200 noon, after the Angelus, the Church bell chimed a Funeral toll for 2 minutes as the nation held 2 minutes silence to remember the 52 killed in 4 terrorist bomb incidents in London a year ago today.

Saturday 8 July 2006

The Parbold Festival was held on Alder Lane – a very nice and sunny day bringing out many people and stalls.

Sunday 9 July 2006

After an absence of two years the Churches were once again involved in the "Songs of Praise" organised by the Parbold Festival Committee held in the Village Hall. The involvement of the Churches came about by accident since the Pentecostal Minister, not knowing the "history" was asked to arrange something. Father Gordon, being previously engaged at St Benedict's Brownedge, was not present.

Monday 17 July 2006

The slight drop in temperature ten days ago has gone and the heat has returned – our fourth hot spell! 83° upstairs at 2300!

Tuesday 18 July 2006

60 attended the School Leavers Mass – held at 1830. There were 13 Leavers. School Staff also attended but not the School Governors (apart from one who was a parent of a leaver!).

Wednesday 19 July 2006

The School received excellent SATs results. All children (taking SATs) achieved Level 4 or more in all subjects. Over 90% achieved Level 5 in English.

The hottest July day ever – reaching 36.3°C (97°F) in Surrey, but only 84° inside the Priory!

Friday 21 July 2006

A second postulant Altar Server arrived, just as the first became a Novice.

Saturday 29 July 2006

A deliciously cool day – only 77°F in the Study!

Monday 31 July 2006

The warmest July and the warmest month on record and probably since the mid 17th century!

Electricians came to carry out approx £3,000 worth of electrical repairs to the Church and Priory to bring the buildings up to Insurance requirements viz a viz Health and Safety and risk assessment.

Thursday 3 August 2006

Despite previous documentation which had arrived last week from the Archdiocese, Bishop Malone sent around a Corrigendum, received today, which removed Parbold from the Ormskirk-Maghull Deanery (which had included the Liverpool city Parishes of Old Roan and Melling as well as Liverpool suburbia of Maghull and Lydiate). From 1 September Parbold will be in a Pastoral Area (Deaneries having disappeared in the *Leaving Safe Harbours* project) with Orell, Shevington, Skelmersdale, Standish, Upholland and Wrightington. This will not affect the choice of Secondary School to be attended by children from Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Orell is currently being served by Don Orione at Appley Bridge. The acting Parish Priest of Shevington, who is also Chaplain to the Carmelites at Upholland and the Wigan Hospitals is withdrawing to work on the Hospitals. The Parish Priest of Standish cannot cluster with Shevington due to his also being Vocations Director for the Archdiocese, the Parish Priest of Upholland, having had a heart attack and now being 75 years of age, is retiring in September and the Parish Priest of Wrightington is 80!

Thursday 10 August 2006

Feast of St Laurence, Patron of Ampleforth and all its works – and only 5 attended Mass – one of whom was not a Parishioner! At least there was a Deacon, a Reader and a Eucharistic Minister!

Sunday 13 August 2006

The coolest day since 28 June – 7 weeks ago – 68 F.

Tuesday 15 August 2006

Father Barry Matthews said the evening Mass and will say Mass on Wednesday and Thursday whilst Father Gordon is at Ampleforth for the Community Chapter – inconveniently arranged so soon after a holyday (worse still for the Councillors who had to be present at the Abbey on the holyday for a Council Meeting).

Friday 18 August 2006

A third postulant Server arrived.

Father Gordon's harasser/stalker (see *Parish Log 26 April, 7+ 11 November 2004, 18 January 2005*) has left the Parish. Hopefully for Father Gordon, the Deacons and their families there will now be peace in the valleys after 2 to 3 years of harassment!

Monday 4 September 2006

Fr Gordon departed last night to give the Parish their annual break from him. Weekday Masses until Saturday 9 September were said by Fr Barry Matthews then all Masses from Saturday 9 September until Sunday 17 September were said by Fr Alban Hood OSB of Douai Abbey who resided in the Priory for his third successive year. Masses from Monday 18 September until Friday 22 September were said by Father Barry Matthews.

Friday 15 September 2006

Abbot Geoffrey (2nd Assistant to the Abbot President) and Br Hugh both of Douai Abbey called – to see Father Alban!

Friday 22 September 2006

After being silent since Saturday 2 September the Church Clock began striking again at 1900 hours today. A possible surge due to weather had caused a malfunction before Fr Gordon went on holiday. A break down in e-mail between the Bell Company and the Parish meant that no one attempted to rectify the situation until Fr Gordon did so on his return.

Tuesday 26 September 2006

A fourth Postulant server arrived – although since the first Postulant became a Novice Server in July there are now three Postulants in the Retro-Choir.

Saturday 30 September 2006

The School Governors (at least the Foundation and Staff Governors) attended the 1100 Mass since they were having a training day held in the Church Meeting Room.

After the warmest July on record – the warmest September on record.

Sunday 1 October 2006

Some were considerably upset by Father Gordon's comments after the 1000 Sunday Mass concerning Health and Safety - in particular with regard to Car Parking and the safety (or lack of safety) of the Meeting Room chairs which were being carried into the back of Church despite a Notice to the contrary (and appeals in the Notice Sheets for the past four months).

Tuesday 17 October 2006

The results of the National Christian Survey held on 8 May 2005 were received. Between 1998 and 2005 the attendance of Catholics at Sunday Mass has dropped by 28%, according to the National Christian Survey. At Our Lady and All Saints the figure is 27% - but in 1999 the 0830 Mass was dropped, resulting in a loss of 30 people. Between 1999 and 2005 the attendance at Our Lady and All Saints has only dropped by 7.5%. According to the Hierarchy's Statistics the drop in attendance for Catholics was really 13% and not 28%.

Also received were figures showing how successful is the Parish Web site. Since December 2003 the site has been visited/hit 89,317 times from over 60 countries – including China and Niue in the Pacific. The largest number of hits outside the UK were from Australia (1804) and Canada (414). The US Government made 4 hits - ?CIA?! In the week 10-17 October there had been 915 hits/visits.

Thursday 19 October 2006

Over 50 attended a Mass of Thanksgiving held in the Retro Choir. This was in thanks for the £16,000 donated to the School for their current extension projects.

Friday 20 October 2006

This week Autumn is *slowly* beginning to show with some trees *slowly* shedding their leaves after the longest summer on record (at least since the seventeenth century).

Tuesday 24 October 2006

A leak had been discovered coming through the Kitchen ceiling from the Bathroom upstairs. This was found to be the result of the bath pipes having come off the Bath and allowing water to pour straight onto the floor – behind the Bath boards (ie not visible to the naked eye). Biojet came to investigate and say that they will repair free of charge – it being their fault – providing that we pay for the moving of the bath!

Thursday 26 October 2006

Autumn has definitely arrived – with its rain!

Friday 27 October 2006

The results of the Christian Survey taken in May 2005 were revealed. From 1998 until 2005 attendance at Mass in RC Churches in England and Wales dropped by 27%. However the Hierarchies' annual statistics shows this to be only 13%. At Our Lady and All Saints the decline has only been 7.5% since 1999.

Sunday 29 October 2006

The Parish Priests of the new Pastoral Administrative Area of Upholland, met at Skelmersdale to plan the road ahead prior to "Leaving Safe Harbours".

Friday 3 November 2006

After a few days of autumn – winter! Well at least frost due to the exceedingly clear skies.

Both Deacons departed for Ushaw College for the annual Liverpool Deacons' Retreat – despite the Diaconate Office in Liverpool not having the courtesy to contact the Parish Priest about this.

Three Coffee evenings were held in three houses in the Parish to raise Funds for the forthcoming Advent Fayre.

Friday 10 November 2006

The Parish and School PTA held a combined Quiz Night in the School.

Saturday 11 November 2006

Father Kenneth Smith said the 1100 Mass due to Father Gordon's absence last night in London. Father Gordon was speaking in the State Apartments of the Royal Chelsea Hospital on the occasion of St Dunstan's House (Ampleforth) belated 70th Birthday.

Sunday 12 November 2006

Over 300 attended the 1000 Remembrance Sunday Mass. 100 young people (along with Standards and Escorts) belonging to the Parbold Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides and Explorers and their families.

Thursday 16 November 2006

Father Barry Matthews said the 1900 Mass last night and the 0915 Mass this morning due to Father Gordon's absence at RAF Kinloss. Father Gordon was taking part in the RAF funeral of his former RAF Parish Chairman who had been killed in Afghanistan on 2 September (not by enemy fire but by an electrical mid-air re-fuelling explosion). On Tuesday 14 November three of his colleagues were buried in Liverpool and near by. A Nimrod fly past over the Church at Altcar was clearly visible from Parbold.

Weekend 25 + 26 November 2006

The weekly Notices carried an item requesting the Parish to boycott the secular Winterval Stamps issued by Royal Mail in a protest seeking Stamps which brought Christ into Christmas. The Parbold Post Mistress was not amused!

Monday 27 November 2006

Delivery was received of 24 stackable Chairs for the Church – mostly the Meeting Room. These are to replace the Chairs received by Fr Michael from Mr McGrath's Restaurant in Scarisbrick which were not very robust. The cost of the new Chairs has been met by a Donation in Memory of Anne Sandiford with a Donation from an anonymous Parishioner.

Thursday 30 November 2006

English Heritage published "*A Glimpse of Heaven*". This is a book depicting the 100 best Catholic Churches in England. Our Lady and All Saints Parbold merits an entry!

Sunday 3 December 2006

The Annual School and Parish Advent Fayre was held in the School after 1000 Mass. The School have produced a CD (£12) of their singing which was on Sale.

Monday 4 December 2006

Mass was said at 0915 (not 1215) in the School to herald the season of Advent.

Fr Michael Hickey of Hexham and Newcastle said Mass at 1900 to celebrate his 40-th anniversary of Ordination. Fr Michael had lived in the Priory with Fr David in the 1980s. Friends came to the Mass from as far a-field as Browndedge.

Tuesday 5 December 2006

The Autumnal rains – usually associated with October – have now arrived. The temperatures are still mild, for December – 10°C

Monday 11 December 2006

The grass had to be cut – in what is being forecast as probably the warmest year ever since records commenced in the seventeenth century.!

Thursday 14 December 2006

The School provided a Christmas Lunch for the OAPs of Parbold in the School Hall. The Headteacher believed that the Lunch usually provided in the WI Hall was lacking in timbre. The Parish Priest, who paid the costs for this lunch (from Parish Funds), was not present... ..due to a Chapter Meeting at Ampleforth. Unfortunately those who live in the Ampleforth Valley (or who run Parishes with the luxury of two assistant Priests) have no concept of what it is to be involved as a single Priest Parish in the run up to Christmas.

In Father Gordon's absence Father Barry Matthews said the evening Mass and the Friday morning Mass.

Weekend 16 + 17 December 2006

The Liverpool Directory 2006 went on sale. No longer based on alphabetical entry but entry by Pastoral Administrative Area and the Titular of the Church. Thus it is virtually impossible to discover the entry for Parbold! The Reader must know that Parbold is in the Upholland Pastoral Administrative Area (formerly known as Deanery) and that our titular is Our Lady and All Saints before getting anywhere!

Monday 18 December 2006

48 attended the 35 minutes Advent Service of Reconciliation – at which Fr Barry assisted.

Tuesday 19 December 2006

28 chairs (having been stored in the Church Cellar and formerly used in the old Day Chapel and subsequent Meeting Room) were collected by St Mary's Leyland for distribution to the Poor – although on Christmas Day Father Gordon and some of the Brethren found they were sitting on some of them at St Mary's Leyland!

Monday 25 December 2006

Numbers for Christmas (386) were approximately the same as in the past six years (apart from 457 in 2003). 206 at "Midnight" (2230 for 2300) and 180 at 1000. Two departed before Mass commenced as a result of having been asked by the Steward to move to a Bench in the body of the Church, from where they were situated at the rear of Church (to allow distribution of Holy Communion there. "toys out of prams syndrome?"

Saturday 30 December 2006

Father Barry Matthews supplies until Wednesday 3 January due to Father Gordon taking his usual back to back December and January month days!

Sunday 31 December 2006

The warmest year on record (since the mid 17th century) has just been completed.