

# 2012

Sunday 1 January 2012

Father Colin OSB, said Mass at 1000 due to Father Gordon's absence north of the Tartan Curtain. Alas the attendance was very poor – only ninety-one. The total weekend attendance was only one hundred and forty-six.

A very windy start to 2012 – throughout the country and throughout Parbold.

Weekend 14+15 January 2012

A letter from Father Abbot was read out at the weekend Masses. Father Abbot wrote to inform the Parish that Father Gordon would be the last resident Ampleforth Monk in the Parish. This was as a result of an Ampleforth Chapter decision, in December, to eventually relinquish control of four of their Parishes (Grassendale, Warrington, Parbold, Brindle) to the Archdiocese. Lostock Hall (in Salford Diocese) would eventually be clustered with Brownedge. This relinquishing was as a result of the drop of numbers of Monks in the Ampleforth Community – from one hundred and fifty-six in the 1960s to seventy-six this year. At Ampleforth there are now only three Monks teaching in the College (compared with forty-eight in the 1960s) and there are now no Monk Housemasters in the College.

Sunday 22 January 2012

Six relatively young married men of the Parish attended a weekend's retreat at Loyola Hall.

Thursday 26 January 2012

A very mild winter so far, in fact the second mildest since 18???. Spring bird song .....

Saturday 28 January 2012

.....despite a cold weekend with snow in other parts of England.

Saturday 34 February 2012

Heavy snow throughout Europe and Britain, but not Parbold – although the day temperature is minus 1°C!

At the 1800 Mass 24 out of 25 Candidates for Confirmations were presented to the Parish

Sunday 5 February 2012

At the 1000 Mass 10 Candidates were presented for their first Reconciliations and holy Communions.

Monday 13 February 2012

Contractors arrived to get the Car Park and Driveway ready for resurfacing. They managed to nick the electrics to the Bollard lighting!

Tuesday 21 February 2012

The £30k resurfacing of the Car Park and Driveway was completed. Despite great angst prior to the event from some Parishioners there was extremely little disruption – helped by the fact that the School were on half term last week and yesterday.

Wednesday 22 February 2012

The first daffodil appeared, three weeks earlier than last year.

Ash Wednesday. Alas the School did not attend Mass and Ashes .....they were at the Theatre "we forgot it was Ash Wednesday". Some parishioners were not amused!

Tuesday 13 March 2012

The carpet in the Priory Porch and Bathroom were removed and substituted with tiles.

In the evening a performance of *The Wreck of the Titanic* took place in Parbold Village Hall with Lancashire County Council's Orchestra of Lancashire Professional Musicians and the children of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Friday 14 March 2012

West Lancs Borough Council sent their annual Council Tax demand – 43.9% higher than this time ten years ago!

Monday 19 March 2012

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

Tuesday 20 March 2012

Spring is sprung! The warmest day of the year so far, 15°C.

Thursday 22 March 2012

Father Barry Matthews supplied and will do so until next Wednesday due to Father Gordon having his "Christmas" break.

Monday 2 April 2012

69 attended the Holy Week Service of Reconciliation – the highest attendance so far for Rite 2B since 2004. Father Gordon was assisted by Fr Barry Matthews.

Sunday 8 April 2012

Despite a very cold Holy Week and Easter (compared with ten days ago when the NW experienced temperatures in the 20°C) plus a government sponsored panic for Petrol and Diesel, numbers at the Holy Week Services were very poor.

Sunday 15 April 2012

The extra large Whisky Bottle at the rear of Church, for donations towards Maintenance and Repairs, has been burgled. The coins were discovered under a rug in the Meeting Room whilst notes, £2 and £1 coins had been removed.

Monday 30 April 2012

The wettest April on record despite the south east of England still being in drought – though at this moment also heavy flooding!

Weekend 11-13 May 2012

Father Barry supplied during Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth with five Catechists and twenty-one Confirmation Candidates. There had been considerable angst over the trip due to Minibus availability and Insurance of aforementioned Minibuses. Fortunately St Mary's Parish Leyland and St Mary's High School Leyland lent the Parish two Minibuses.

Sunday 20 May 2012

Ten children made their First Holy Communions at the 1000 Mass – attended by 315 people.

Saturday 26 May 2012

Parishioners, galvanised by the Parish Chairman and Vice Chairman, put up bunting in anticipation of the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth, next weekend.

Monday 28 May 2012

The School had their Sports day on this the seventh day of temperatures over 25°C – which commenced on Tuesday 22 May – 26°C today. This has been a welcome relief after the cold, wet and dreich spring – apart from the fourth week of March.

Sunday 3 June 2012

A double Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Despite a lot of Parishioners being away (Mass attendances were down by forty) over two hundred and fifty attended a Civic Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving in Our Lady and All Saints Church at 1500 in the afternoon. The Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire Borough Council were in attendance along with the Chairman of Parbold Parish Council and 16 Cadets and Staff from 2376 Squadron (Bamber Bridge) ATC – of which Squadron Father Gordon is Chaplain. After the forty-five minute traditional Service (Hymns to the tunes of *Land of Hope and Glory*, *the Dambusters*, *Jerusalem*, *Auld Lang Syne*, *I vow to thee my country*) there should have been a Garden Party on the Priory Lawn. Alas due to temperatures of 8°C and rain the Garden Party had to be transferred to inside Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School – which was most successful even if crowded. The Parish Chairman, Steve Marston had ably co-ordinated the “Garden” Party. OLAS provided all the drink, Christ Church Newburgh the nibbles, and Christ Church Parbold the Cakes.

Tuesday 5 June 2012

The nation finished four days of extremely jolly Diamond Jubilee celebrations – despite rain on Sunday and today.

Sunday 10 June 2012

The annual Corpus Christi Procession, Although it was half term a very good turn out. Despite a week of constant rain – no rain! Unfortunately the Convent could not oblige with an Altar due to their Priest being unable to start his Mass until 1030. Nevertheless the Procession went to the Convent, around their “circle” and back to Church. “Mass and Procession” finished at 1115 – fifteen minutes later than last year.

Monday 11 June 2012

Bishop Vincent Malone administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty-one Candidates. Normally Confirmations are every two years in OLAS Parish so this year should have been a fallow year. Due to the change in the Liverpool Sacramental Programme this year became a “catch up” year.

Thursday 14 June 2012

Father Barry supplied and will do so until 20 June in Father Gordon’s absence. The latter announcing in the weekly Notices that he was taking time to have his nervous breakdown after a month of Confirmations’ Retreat at Ampleforth, three Marriages, First Communion, Jubilee Service, Corpus Christi Procession and Confirmations themselves.

Weekend 15-17 June 2012

Over seventy-five Parishioners attended a very wet weekend Camp in Yorkshire, with the result that only fifty-one were present at Sunday 1000 Mass!

Saturday 23 June 2012

The School were due to hold their annual Football Gala today but as a result of the recent damp weather – especially a constant downpour yesterday when a month’s supply of rain fell in the North West – the event has been postponed to 7 July. Hopefully the four hundred buns and burgers will remain frozen until the date in question! Yesterday the temperature was 3°C lower than on Christmas Day!

Friday 29 June 2012

The feast of St Peter and Paul and a holyday of obligation – one of the few remaining on a week day. Father Colin OSB, from Brownedge, said the 0915 morning Mass due to Father Gordon's absence. Father Gordon was participating in Warrington's Walking Day showing solidarity with St Mary's Parish who will be losing their Benedictine Priest this autumn. This will be the end of a Benedictine presence in the Warrington area which began in 1677. In 1960 there had been eleven Ampleforth Monks serving four Warrington Parishes.

Saturday 30 June 2012

Surprise, surprise! The wettest June on record – after the wettest April on record (1910)!

Sunday 1 July 2012

Fr Barry said the 1000 Mass due to Father Gordon's absence celebrating the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of his former Parish Church at Lostock Hall.

Tuesday 3 July 2012

A team of four arrived to carry out the quinquennial survey of Priory and Church. They arrived at 0930 and were gone by 1530.

Saturday 7 July 2012

The School finally held its Football Gala, with sixteen teams participating .....and .....the sun shone! OLAS RC Primary School Under 11s won their section – with five females on their squad!

Thursday 12 July 2012

When Father Gordon returned from his *Dies non* he was unable to open the outer Priory Door – which alas was also on double lock. Gaining entrance via the Garage (and setting off the burglar alarm) he still could not open the door or remove the lock from the inside! Fortunately a Locksmith appeared within one hour and a new lock will now have to be purchased – plus a matching one for the inner door.

Saturday 14 July 2012

The Parbold Villager Festival was held. Once again in Parbold Douglas CE Academy grounds. To add insult to injury the Committee requested that OLAS Church Car Park be used as an overflow Car Park. Charity prevailed, as did the weather since the continuous rain ceased.

Monday 16 July 2012

OLAS RC Primary School held its annual Awards Night (Prize Giving) in the Church.

Thursday 19 July 2012

The 1900 evening Mass was a School Leavers' Mass. Twelve out of sixteen Year 6 leavers attended. Fortunately in September they are being replaced with an intake of fifteen.

Sunday 22 July 2012

At 0715 a coach load of forty-two adults and seven children, led by Deacon David, departed for Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Michael's Church in Workington. The trip was to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of Father Michael Phillips OSB. Father Michael was Parish Priest of Our Lady and All Saints Parbold from 1990 until 1998 before becoming Parish Priest of Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Michael, Workington, until 2009. The congregation at Mass this weekend at Our Lady's was down to 131.

Has summer returned (absent since 28 May)? Sun and 22°C

Wednesday 15 August 2012

A holyday and another very poorly attended evening Mass (in the Retro Choir)

Saturday 25 August 2012

The funeral of the Ashes of a three weeks old baby. Since his mother is Hindu he was cremated on Friday and his Ashes split – one half to be buried at Our Lady and All Saints and one half to be scattered on the Ganges.

Friday 31 August 2012

Father Sylvanus Attoh from the Kafanchan Diocese in Nigeria arrived for a three week supply whilst Father Gordon departs on Sunday 2 September. Fr Sylvanus has just completed his Philosophy course in Rome and returns to Nigeria (on 22 September) to become Rector of his Diocesan Philosophy Seminary.

August was the second coldest and wettest since records began! Last Saturday (25 August) the rain was torrential. It is promised that September will be warmer!

Monday 24 September 2012

A month's supply of rain fell in 24 hours. Lancaster Lane was almost impassable. The amount of water lifted up the plastic container in the Ashes Vault along with the concrete slabs which should hold it down. A decision has been made to close and fill in the vault and to simply bury the Ashes in the grass around the Memorial Stone. Fortunately there are only four caskets involved, which for the time being are being stored in the Mausoleum underneath the Church.

Monday 1 October 2012

Father Xavier OFM Cap, who supplied in September 2011, stayed until Wednesday. Unfortunately most of the people he wished to visit were either dead or absent from the Parish!

Sunday 7 October 2012

A set of twins was baptised at the 1000 Mass – an additional one hundred people were present in the congregation – yet the Loose Plate Collection was down by £4 from the previous week!

Tuesday 23 October 2012

Today, Wednesday and Friday there was no Mass in Church. Father Gordon was at the Abbey on Retreat (the Low Week Retreat moved to autumn) and Fr Barry was supplying in Skelmersdale whilst their PP was in Fatima – but Fr Barry was able to supply for Thursday evening Mass at OLAS. This was the first time this century at OLAS that there has been no Mass two days on the row. Parishioners were invited to attend the morning Mass in the Convent although Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion took place in OLAS Church attended by about four people – instead of the usual twelve to fifteen.

Saturday 27 October 2012

Autumn has definitely arrived. The flag of the Royal Marines was flying from the flag pole due to the wedding of a Royal Marine Sergeant taking place today.

Monday 29 October 2012

Autumn has not definitely arrived – winter more like it!

Wednesday 31 October 2012

Deacon David led the first evening Prayer of All Saints in the hope of attracting people away from Hallow'een extravagances. Four attended.

Thursday 1 November 2012

A holyday of obligation. The evening Mass attendance was twenty four.

Friday 2 November 2012

Peter Madden led a Bereavement Service in Church. About forty attended.

Sunday 11 November 2012

It was the turn of OLAS to host the Remembrance Service for the Uniformed Organisations. This took place at the 1000 Mass which was attended by over three hundred and forty, one hundred of them being children and youth.

Sunday 18 November 2012

Deacon David conducted a Holy Hour in the afternoon as part of the *Year of Faith* which runs from 11 October 2012 until 24 November 2013. There will be a Holy Hour in the afternoon of the third Sunday of each month.

Saturday 24 November 2012

Four Ash Caskets, previously interred in the Ash Vault (*see 24 September*) were interred in the soil adjacent to the Ash Vault. Three out of the four families involved attended.

Friday 7 December 2012

A Meeting, in the Priory, for those with suggestions as how to implement the *Year of Faith*.

Friday 14 December 2012

A packed Church for the SND Funeral of a famous Sister, Sister Eileen Kelleher SND, who had been Vice Chancellor of Hope University amongst other posts which she had held. Fr Kevin Kelly said the Requiem Mass Absolute chaos over parking due to the Funeral coinciding with OLAS RCP School run and Parbold Douglas CE School run.

Tuesday 18 December 2012

The School produced their Advent Reflection in Church which was filled to capacity. Unfortunately three miscreants tried parking on the Grass – which as a result of the continuous rain for the past two months meant that they could not leave – without considerable damage to the grass and to those who tried to push them out.

Thursday 20 December 2012

Fr Barry assisted Fr Gordon with the Advent Service of Reconciliation. Despite the end of the world being forecast for 1112 tomorrow, Friday 21 December (the Mayan Calendar finishes), the Church was not packed with those preparing themselves – only 51 attended!

Tuesday 25 December 2012

The lowest ever attendance recorded for Christmas (333 compared with a high of 482 in 2000). 30% down on last year – yet there was nothing wrong with the weather!

Wednesday 26 December 2012

Harry Marston became the first Altar Server to be admitted to the Parish's branch of the Archconfraternity of the Guild of St Stephen. Although the Parish was affiliated to the Guild in February 1987 no Parish Priest, until today, had admitted any Servers to the Guild!

2012 had the driest spring on record – to be followed by the wettest autumn and winter, which helped the UK have its second wettest year (on record) as well as wettest ever in England. Fortunately Parbold was not as badly as affected as other areas of the country – especially the south west where there was wide spread flooding. Due to the high water table our Church Light Bollards would short causing the Light Bollards and the Church Floods (on the same electrical system) to be inoperative after every high rainfall.