

2014

Wednesday 1 January 2014

Father Barry Matthews said Mass today due to Father Gordon's absence north of the Tartan Curtain. As an experiment Mass was said at 1200. 37 attended, admittedly 17 from the Family for whom the Mass Intention was being said. The change was explained at the Saturday Vigil Mass (but forgotten at the Sunday morning Mass) as a hope that more people would commence the New Year by attending Mass.

Monday 20 January 2014

The Church and Priory were without electricity for two and a half hours – but not the Convent nor the School. Apparently 120 homes in the area (including Dalton) were affected. The Priory cleaner came today instead of tomorrow in order to Hoover and iron – but.....!

Thursday 23 January 2014

The Church Unity Service was held in Christ Church Parbold. Usually held at 1500 on a Sunday it was felt that people had had enough on a Sunday afternoon (morning attendances). However the numbers of Anglicans present were no different from Sundays. On the other hand the number of OLAS present was three times higher. Approximately 55 attended, 33 from OLAS (last year's total was 30, 10 from each Church).

Friday 31 January 2014

The feast of Saint Alban Roe OSB, Monk and Martyr. The 0915 Mass was replaced by a 1400 Mass in the School at the re-launch of their Mission Statement. Over 65 adults were also present.

The wettest January since 1766 – especially in the flood drenched south west of England, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

Sunday 2 February 2014

Eight (out of nine) candidates for Confirmation were presented at the 1000 Mass. This Mass was a very successful Children's Mass, organised by adult Parishioners. Total attendance was 170.

Wednesday 5 February 2014

The main telephone line (463248) was out of action. Reported to BT at 1230 with an engineer in attendance at 1350 – to say the fault lay 130 metres from the house and would be dealt with tomorrow. Fortunately 463248 could be diverted to the Fax number (462495). Unfortunately the Fax ring tone is so quiet it can only be heard in the Study!

Thursday 6 February 2014

After work in Alder Lane the telephone fault was remedied at 1215.

Saturday 8 February 2014

The telephone line for 463248 once again collapsed – and will not be repaired until Monday.

An extremely low Saturday vigil Mass which could have been held in the Retro Choir. Loose Plate for the weekend was only £64.30!

Sunday 9 February 2014

Ampleforth appointed its first lay head teacher – from the North of Ireland.

Monday 10 February 2014

The telephone fault is still 130 metres away. The line is snarled in the tree branches between the Electric Sub-station and Alder Lane. BT is coming tomorrow to replace the line.

Wednesday 12 February 2014

The winter winds doth blow! Speeds of 105 mph in the north-west, Thelwall Viaduct and the Canal and Mersey Bridge on the M60 closed (the diversion route from the M6!). Also all West Coast Main Line train services cancelled, as well as Liverpool to Manchester services. OLAS was without power for over two hours in the evening. This is nothing compared with the flooding in the Thames Valley and South West of the country. 56,000 properties were without power throughout the country.

A letter arrived from a neighbour, from 73A Brandreth Drive, claiming that the resurfacing of the Church Car Park in 2012 has caused extensive flooding to his garden and house. Note the comments above (plus 31 January) concerning the weather and the fact that 2013 has been the wettest on record! He is demanding compensation. The matter has been passed on to the Abbey who have passed it on to the Insurers and their Solicitors. Villagers say that the problem is that the Brandreth Estate has too many buildings for an inadequate drainage supply, which causes back up – into his garden!

Tuesday 25 February 2014

Painting commenced in the Church – although it is repainting – the first time since 2003. This time it will be done by a one man team. Although some of the existing paint work looks relatively clean the contrast with the new paint, the same colour, is very strong. Hopefully the repainting will be completed by Holy Week.

Weekend 1 + 2 March 2014

The Annual Foreign Mission Appeal on behalf of the Spiritan Fathers. Fr Raphael Annan, from Ghana, preached and stayed overnight. Fr Raphael is a distant relation of Kofi Annan (former UN Secretary General).

Monday 3 March 2014

At long last – daffodils appearing. Despite the lack of snow and frost this appearance is much later than previous years (8 February in 2008) – although last year they did not appear until 18 March.

Wednesday 5 March 2014

Ash Wednesday with the School present at 1200. Deacon David was absent but fortunately Fr Barry was present.

Thursday 6 March 2014

Scaffolding erected on the north side of Church for the repainting.

Friday 7 March 2014

The Stations of the Cross, which had been removed on Tuesday for the repainting of the walls, were returned to position today – thus not hindering anyone from their Lenten observances!

Monday 10 March 2014

Spring has arrived – it arrived in the south of England yesterday. The grass was cut.

Lancashire County Council Highways started resurfacing parts of Lancaster Lane.

Wednesday 12 March 2014

Peter Madden commenced a fortnightly Lenten Reflection. Seven attended.

Friday 14 March 2014

In place of the Lenten Family Fast Lunch Deacon David conducted a Reflection for CAFOD. Seven attended.

Thursday 20 March 2014

Fr Barry supplied, and will do so until next Wednesday due to the absence of Father Gordon in Ireland.

Tuesday 25 March 2014

The Sacristy Table was used as a temporary Altar due to the Scaffolding for the repainting taking over the whole of the Retro Choir and the High Altar.

Tuesday 1 April 2014

An extremely warm and sunny summery day!

The School produced an Easter Reflection – in School – although the Scaffolding had been removed from Church today. Only the walls around the west window remaining to be repainted, along with ground level work.

Thursday 3 April 2014

Fr Barry supplied today and will do tomorrow during Father Gordon's absence at the annual Spring Chapter being held at Ampleforth,.

Friday 11 April; 2014

The repainting of the Church was completed – save for the SW corner which awaits external sealing of the wall to prevent rain encroachment.

Monday 14 April 2014

Parishioners are setting to work cleaning the inside of the Church prior to Easter – not helped by extra dust from the re-painting/scaffolding etc.

A bronze Memorial to *All Who have died as a result of War and Violence* was installed between the War Memorial Windows in Church. The Memorial was designed by a Parishioner, Bryan Dutton, with the theme *Turn your swords in to ploughshares* – Isaiah 2.4. This Memorial had been due to be installed last Remembrance Sunday. It will be blessed on Easter Sunday, this centenary year of the First World War.

Fr Barry assisted Fr Gordon at the Holy Week Service of Reconciliation. 51 attended.

Friday 18 April 2014

Good Friday – a truly nice, warm and sunny day. Yet numbers present were almost identical to last year – due to a number of non-parishioners being present. No organ due to the ill health of the organist. CDs were used instead.

Sunday 20 April 2014

At the 1000 Mass the Memorial to *All killed as a result of war and violence* was unveiled and blessed. This added five to ten minutes to the Mass, at which there were two Baptisms.

Attendance at the Vigil were the highest in five years, and the Sunday 1000 Mass attendance was the fifth highest in the past ten years – so average.

Thursday 1 May 2014

Bishop Malcolm McMahon OP, of Nottingham, was installed as ninth Archbishop of Liverpool. Deacon David attended in Liverpool Cathedral, Father Gordon was out of the county.

Sunday 4 May 2014

After the 1000 Mass a party was held for Father Barry Matthews prior to his departure for South Africa on Thursday 8 May. £900 was donated by the Parish to him.

Thursday 8 May 2014

Father Barry's departure today will mean the Parish joins many other Parishes in not necessarily having Mass every day of the week if Fr Gordon is absent. Of our neighbours SND Convent has Mass only on four weekdays, Mawdesley, Orrell, Shevington, Standish, Tarleton and Wrightington have no more than three weekday Masses.

Weekend 10+11 May 2014

The annual Parish Camp at Settle – with the usual rainfall! Although seventy were on the camp Mass attendance in OLAS Church was only down by twenty!

Sunday 18 May 2014

The Children led a Mass in honour of Our Lady. Blue vestments were used. About 25-30 children participated.

Wednesday 21 May 2014

50 stacking Chairs, which belong to the Parish and used be stored in the School until Mrs Cropper's reign, were now transferred to the Church Cellar from the Village Post Office where they had been stored since leaving the School.

Father Gordon blessed a new School Peace Garden, in memory of Kathryn Curran.

Thursday 22 May 2014

Due to Father Gordon's absence at a wedding in Scotland, and the absence of Father Barry, the Parish entered the real world. Eucharistic Services were held tonight as well as tomorrow and Saturday morning.

Tuesday 3 June 2014

Father Gordon was absent, in London, attending a Royal Garden Party, with HM Queen Elizabeth, at Buckingham Palace.

Sunday 15 June 2014

The annual Summer Fair was held. This year at Parbold Hall, courtesy of the new owner, a Parishioner, Martin Ainscough. Over £2,000 was raised – shared equally by the School PTFA and the Parish.

Wednesday 18 June 2014

Father Gordon departed for his Easter week break with no weekday Mass supplies to stand in for him. Deacon David will conduct Communion Services on Thursday and Saturday as well as next Monday.

Friday 20 June 2014

No Mass or Communion Service in Church. Parishioners were encouraged to attend 1900 Mass in Harrock Hall in honour of the Parish martyr, Saint John Rigby.

Weekend Saturday 21 + Sunday 22 June 2014

Father Kevin Mulhearn, Pastor Emeritus of St Joseph Wrightington, supplied. Saturday evening Mass was the Catenian President's Mass which doubled the usually very low attendance!

Tuesday 24 + Wednesday 25 June 2014

No Masses or Communion Services in Church. Parishioners were encouraged to attend the 1030 Mass in Notre Dame Convent. Six attended on Tuesday and two on Wednesday.

Thursday 26 June 2014

Bishop Vincent Malone confirmed 10 Parishioners. The remit for Father Gordon to do so was not valid since eight had already received their First Communions!

Sunday 6 July 2014

After the 1000 Mass there was a gathering in the Meeting Room with Buffet and Drinks, mostly arranged by the Catenians. This was to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Deacon David, which had occurred on Wednesday 2 July.

Saturday 12 July 2014

A very successful Parbold Festival, once again back on the Alder Lane Football site.

Tuesday 15 July 2014

The School Prizegiving was held in Church.

Monday 21 July 2014

There was no Mass in Church today and the School Leavers' Mass became a Service in School. This was due to the fact that all Deanery Parishes had been invited to an evening Mass at St Richard's Skelmersdale to meet the new Archbishop, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP. Nine Mass goers from OLAS (three not being Parishioners) and Deacon David and Father Gordon attended in Skelmersdale.

Tuesday 22 July 2014

Parbold Village had its Berlin Wall – splitting the Village. After 1900 a car crashed through the closed level crossing gates and as a result smashed the gates. For the next 4 days the main road has been blocked at the level crossing.

Saturday 26 July 2014

The end of a week of real summer time. 28°C/82.4°F on Thursday!

Weekend 2+3 August 2014

On 1 August 1914 World War I commenced when Germany declared war on Russia. On 4 August Britain declared war on Germany for invading Belgium. After Saturday evening Mass and Sunday morning Mass, this weekend, there was half an hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Basically, on this centenary of World War I, praying for Peace in the world – ISIS, Iraq, Middle East (Israel and Palestine), Libya, Sudan, Ukraine. Over 70% remained after Saturday Mass and 50% after Sunday Mass.

The Union Flag flew at half mast until Monday night.

Monday 4 August 2014

The 1215 Mass was a Requiem Mass for "All who died in World War I". Father Gordon wore his Uncle's Military Medal and other World War I medals.

Tuesday to Friday 5 to 8 August 2014

Father Gordon was at Ampleforth on Retreat. With no supply Priest available Deacon David led the Divine Office, Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion.

Sunday 10 August 2014

A Baptism outside Mass. Father Gordon and Fr Brian Crane of Liverpool, Chaplain to Everton Football Club, baptised the daughter of the Manager of Everton Football Club.

Monday 11 August and Tuesday 12 August 2014

Father Gordon was absent, yet again, at Ampleforth's Chapter Meeting. The Laity were to conduct a Communion Service on Monday but only the two "conductors" attended! On Tuesday there was no Service in Church. The Faithful were asked to attend the 1030 Mass in the Convent.

Thursday 14 August 2014

Instead of an evening Mass tomorrow to night's Mass was that of the Assumption. Mass was held in the Retro Choir although 42 attended – visitors had increased the usual number.

Friday 15 August 2014

After last night's higher than normal attendance there were only 30 were present at the 0915 Mass, held in the body of the Church! Last night and today only two people under the age of 21 were at Mass.

Monday 25 August 2104

A very, very cold August Bank Holiday! As a result of a misprint in the Notices the usual 1000 Bank Holiday Mass was said at 1215. A straw pole of the sixteen who had attended suggested that most would have attended at 1000 if there had been such a Mass.

Saturday 13 September 2014

The Prime Minister, on Wednesday, asked that the Saltire be flown in England as a show of support for the Union "better together" campaign in next Thursday's Scottish Referendum on independence. At OLAS the weekly Notices say that we are flying the Saltire not to support the Prime Minister nor the First Minister of Scotland but to remind Parishioners to pray "thy will be done" in the Referendum.

Tuesday 16 September 2014

There was no 0915 Mass in Church this morning. Instead Fr Gordon said the 1030 Mass in the Convent, Seven Parishioners attended – which has been the highest attendance of Parishioners at such a Mass.

Father Gordon's cousin's son and his wife arrived for four days. Their son, Cameron, had stayed here for two months in spring 2010.

Friday 19 September 2014

The Saltire was lowered. Yesterday Scotland voted 55%-45% to remain part of the Union of the United Kingdom.

Tuesday 23 September 2014

The first day of autumn, yesterday and today, after a lovely Indian summer, autumn did arrive in Parbold today – a dreich day!

Saturday 27 September 2014

Two of the Guitarists from the Sunday Music Group plus Deacon Anthony from Skelmersdale performed a Concert evening held in the School to raise Parish Funds.

Tuesday 30 September 2014

The driest September on record.

Friday 3 October 2014

Family Fast Day – with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 1300 until 1600 in the Meeting Room.

Sunday 5 October 2014

Although last Sunday was Harvest Sunday, due to logistics problems with the organisers today the Church was decorated with Harvest produce (as last year) and the Children participated in the Mass, a Harvest for Peace through the Rosary. Over 150 attended.

In the evening, at 1800, and on every Sunday throughout October there is Rosary and Benediction for World Peace.

Monday 6 October 2014

Father Austin Monaghan MHM, from Tees-side and Freshfield, came to supply during Father Gordon's "summer" absence. This was a month later than usual due to visitors from Australia in September. The usual Archdiocesan foreign Priests were not available in October but the Mill Hill Fathers in Freshfield came up trumps.

Tuesday 21 October 2014

Violent storms and two of our trees came down. Fortunately one of the two was due to be cut down next week!

Sunday 26 October 2014

During October Deacon David conducted Rosary and Benediction for World Peace. An average of 10 attended each session.

Friday 31 October 2014

Deacon David led a Christian Hallow e'en in Church – Evening Prayer and Benediction.

Tuesday 4 November 2014

Mass was in the Convent since Father Gordon had gone to Ampleforth yesterday to join the Staff and Governors of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School who were there for a two day INSED.

Sunday 9 November 2014

The Uniformed organisations attended the 1000 Mass for Remembrance Sunday. Over 370 were in Church – and since here were 270 last weekend (Baptisms) there were 640 at 1000 Mass over two Sundays instead of the usual 200!

Wednesday 26 November 2014

Father David O'Brien OSB, the eleventh Parish Priest of Our Lady and All Saints 1973 until 1990, died at Ampleforth Abbey aged 89.

Sunday 30 November 2014

After the 1000 Mass the Advent Fair was held in the School by the PTFA – although Parishioners did provide the refreshments – at the last minute!

Wednesday 3 December 2014

The first frost of winter.

Thursday 4 December 2014

At 0815 a Chara with 21 Parishioners left for Fr David's funeral at Ampleforth – with 17 Parishioners from St Mary's Brownedge. Deacon David assisted Fr Abbot, on the Sanctuary, at Ampleforth.

Monday 8 + Tuesday 9 December 2014

No Mass in Church due to Father Gordon being at Ampleforth for Chapter. Parishioners (and on Tuesday Year 5 from School) attended Mass in the Convent.

Wednesday 10 December 2014

The winter winds doth blow!

Saturday 13 December 2014

Parbold Hill was closed for two hours in the morning as a result of a fatal collision between two cars, in which a 77 year old man from Standish was killed.

Sunday 14 December 2014

The Children participated in the 1000 Mass – bringing presents for the less fortunate.

Monday 22 December 2014

Fr Colin OSB, from Brownedge, assisted at the Advent Service of Reconciliation at which a good attendance of 50 was present.

Wednesday 24 December 2014

The lowest ever attendance at Midnight Mass since the 1960s. Carols at 2230 and Mass at 2300 finishing just before 0015. Only 157 were present. (337 in 1998, 298 in 2000). Nevertheless more than usual remained for post spiritual refreshment after the Mass.

Thursday 25 December 2014

1000 Mass attendance was the same as last year – 182. However overall attendance for Christmas in 2012 had been lower.

Saturday 27 December 2014

Cold and winter snows closed Liverpool Airport and road havoc as far a field as Yorkshire – but not a drop in Parbold!

Monday 29 December 2014

It is cold!

Wednesday 31 December 2014

Deacon David conducted a Communion Service in Fr Gordon's absence to see farewell to the Old Year and see in the New Year – not in Scotland – but in London.

2014 was the warmest year on record.

Mass Attendance

Despite recent low Mass attendances – especially Saturdays 1800 – the average attendance in 2014 was 169 – compared with 166 for 2013. 18% of known Parishioners are attending. The 374 present on Remembrance Sunday would have helped boost the average!

A big drop came in 2010 and another in 2013.

In 2004 the average attendance was 192 (20%), in 1994 it was 285 (22%), in 1984 390 (36%).