

# 2010

Friday 1 January 2010

Father Barry Matthews said Mass at 1000, and will do so on Saturday at 1100 – due to Father Gordon's absence.

Weekend 2+3 January 2010

Father John Zampese of the Xaverian Missionaries made the Annual Foreign Mission Appeal.

Tuesday 5 January 2010

Heavy snow – and the ice/snow from 18 December has still not disappeared! Local Schools including St Bede's in Ormskirk were closed.

Wednesday 6 January 2010

The heaviest snow in over fifty years for some parts of the UK. Still below freezing in Parbold with the snow from 18 December still lying.

Saturday 9 January 2010

Despite the heat having been on for four hours it was only 48°F/9°C in Church at 1100 this morning. Very warm in fact compared with minus 15°C (outside) in Manchester and minus 22.3°C in the Highlands!

Saturday 9 January 2010

Only 39 attended the Vigil Mass – it could have been held in the Retro Choir.

Sunday 10 January 2010

Over 150 cars parked on Parbold Hill in the afternoon plus another 115 in Lindsey Christ Church Car Park. Not a charismatic Evensong at Christ Church but part of the hordes who were tobogganing in the fields adjacent to the Hill.

Saturday 16 January 2010

The snow has finally disappeared – having lain on the ground for one month since Friday 18 December.

Thursday 21 January 2010

The lower section of the walls in Church was cleaned. Despite being repainted in 2003 a lot of grime had accumulated.

Sunday 31 January 2010

Eleven children were presented at the 1000 Mass for their preparations for First Confession and First Communion.

January was the coldest January on record for twenty-three years – the ninth coldest in the past one hundred years – and it snowed today!

Wednesday 17 February 2010

A very frosty Ash Wednesday. The School were not present for the Ashes (half term) nor was Deacon David. The morning attendance (1200) had the second least attendance this century (41) – but fortunately the evening (now 1900 and not 1930) had the largest attendance this century (68). Overall more were present than in the past ten years.

Thursday 25 February 2010

Fr Barry Matthews supplied, and will do until next Thursday, during Father Gordon's absence.

Saturday 6 March 2010

Sixty people attended the 1100 morning Mass – twenty of them children under twelve. All were accommodated in the Retro Choir and Lady Chapel. It was overcrowded but it was cosy! It could be possible to fit the Saturday 1800 Congregation (average size of 52 – September 09 to December 09) in that space!

Tuesday 9 March 2010

An excellent turn out for the Children's First Reconciliation even though there were only nine candidates (plus three for blessings only). Many adults and older children for the forty-five minute Service. Our own Music Group provided music. Monsignor Peter and Father Barry assisted Father Gordon.

Monday 15 March 2010

A visitor to the Priory for a month. Father Gordon's Australian's cousin's grandson, eighteen year old Cameron Beattie, from Condobolin, New South Wales.

Thursday 18 March 2010

Spring! The Daffodils are beginning to bloom – a month later than usual – after the coldest winter in thirty-one years. (3 March 2009 but 8 February 2008 and 1 February 2007).

A General Election Forum in Church, although no General Election, as yet, has been called. This was arranged by the Clergy of Parbold and Newburgh. Three candidates (LibDems, Tory and UKIP) and one Candidate's representative (Labour) attended. The Meeting was chaired by a neutral non cleric, Phil Lynas, from Bispham. Apart from the four Clergy and the four Candidates forty-one others attended what turned out to be a peaceful gathering!

Monday 22 March 2010

Father Barry supplied and will do so until Thursday whilst Father Gordon takes his antipodean cousin to his family roots in Scotland.

Saturday 27 March 2010

As on 9 January – only 39 attended the Vigil Mass – the lowest turn out this century.

Tuesday 30 March 2010

A record number attended the Holy Week Penance Service (ie 63!). Father Gordon was assisted by Monsignor Peter (SND Chaplain) and Father Barry.

Sunday 4 April 2010

Easter Sunday. Alas only 61 at the Vigil Service – the second lowest this century. However 289 were at the 1000 Mass. Attendances at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were good.

Monday 12 + Tuesday 13 April 2010

Father Barry supplied due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth for Chapter.

Thursday 15 April 2010

UK and north European air space was closed as a result of a volcanic eruption in Iceland. Airlines and Travel Agents are saying they cannot refund/pay out because it is an "act of God". Surely eruptions spewing out from the earth are the devil's remit and not God's?

Saturday 17 April 2010

Fr Gordon's Australian cousin, Cameron Beattie, left for Ardingly College, Sussex, where he is gapping until the end of the autumn term. His flight from Manchester to Gatwick – along with all UK and north European Flights – was cancelled due to the volcanic ash (see 15 April) so he travelled by train. This prompted an Altar Server to say at the Vigil Mass "Train? All the way to Sydney?". Whilst staying here Cameron carried out a considerable amount of work tidying up in the woods.

Tuesday 20 to Friday 23 April 2010

Father Barry supplied, yet again. This time due to Father Gordon's absence at Ampleforth on his annual Retreat.

Wednesday 21 April 2010

Air space over UK was once again buzzing with planes after six days of silent skies. It was now considered safe to fly. Because of the volcanic ash some Parishioners had been marooned in Majorca, some Parishioners had been unable to make a planned Pilgrimage to Rome.

Saturday 24 April 2010

Lancashire Probation Services returned after an absence of a year. They will be working in the Alder Lane area of the grounds, as well as in the wood – tidying up.

Thursday 6 May 2010

A General Election. Adrian Owens, a Parishioner and Chairman of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School Governors, stood as the Conservative Candidate for our local constituency of West Lancashire. Whilst reducing the Labour Candidate's majority the most since 1985 he did not manage to capture the seat.

Sunday 16 May 2010

The moved feast of the Ascension. 11 children, all from the School, made their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion. Fortunately the very cold weather of the last week had departed.....

Friday 21 May 2010

.....and warm weather really arrived – 24°C!

Friday 4 June 2010

Fortunately Deacon David and wife Pat returned from Cumbria – alive! On Wednesday, in their area of Cumbria, a gunman had gone on the rampage and killed twelve people.

Sunday 6 June 2010

Feast of Corpus Christi – only 37 attended the Vigil Mass – which unfortunately did not improve the attendance at 1000. Only 97 attended (8 out of 11 First Communicant Families). This was the smallest attendance for Corpus Christi this century. It was half term weekend.

The Corpus Christi Procession took place to the Convent – without a hitch – despite the odds of some slight precipitation and the Police Health and Safety. In the past two weeks three visits were made by the local Policeman concerning the Procession. We were given a seventy page Home Office Health and Safety Guidelines for Processions. As a result four pages of Risk Assessment had to be carried out and if a Police presence was required on Lancaster Lane (as in previous years) his Police Sergeant had demanded that traffic notices be placed at Tan House Lane and Alder Lane, and there must be a car in front and a car behind the procession. In addition our marshal must wear not only a day-glow jacket but one with special tabards. After many e-mails and much discussion with the Parish Health and Safety Officer, Parishioners, LCC Highways, WLBC – the latter two advising “go ahead as usual” – it was decided to go ahead without asking for a Police presence. Nevertheless an off duty policeman in his day-glow jacket did attend!

Sunday 13 June 2010

The annual Parish Fête was held after the 1100 Mass. This was an innovation which appears to have been successful. Another innovation was that the Fête was held on the School Grounds and with School involvement – thus attendance was high. Over £1,500 was raised – the most this century.

After the Fête the Pastoral Area held a Children's Mass at St Theresa's Upholland followed by a picnic. Unfortunately the good weather which held out for the Parish Fête did not hold out for the Children's Mass and Picnic both of which had to be held indoors. OLAS Parish was well represented.

Thursday 17 June 2010

Father Barry supplied and will do so until next Wednesday due to Father Gordon's absence.

Summer is here – temperatures over 20°C

Tuesday 29 June 2010

Feast of St Peter and St Paul – a holyday of obligation. Only 21 attended the 1900 Mass – although two turned up after Communion! 21 is less than the attendance at some normal weekday Masses!

Wednesday 30 June 2010

The driest six months of any year for over 80 years!

Saturday 3 July 2010

The School PTA held their now annual Football Gala. As a result of last year, where cars were parked all over the Cemetery, the Alder Lane Site was used as an overflow Car Park – it managed to contain 28 cars but could have held 34. The Alder Lane site had been cleared by Lancashire Probation Service and Chris Quirk.

Friday 9 July 2010

Due to the dry and warm weather a hose ban for the NW of England – but nowhere else in the country!

The annual Mass in honour of the Parish's martyr, St John Rigby, was held in Harrock Hall. Archbishop Patrick presided and preached. Although a Deanery (Pastoral Area) Mass Fr Gordon and Fr Kevin were the only two Parish Priests from the Deanery who were present. Despite a congregation of 150 only four were from our Lady and All Saints.

Saturday 10 July 2010

The annual Parbold Festival. This year it was held in the grounds of Parbold Douglas CE School. A letter from the Headteacher of OLAS RCPS and the Parish Priest was sent to the Committee hoping that in future years the site would alternate between PDCE and OLAS.

Monday 19 July 2010

The annual School Prize Giving was held, this year, in Church, from 1830 until 1950. It was very successful. The Blessed Sacrament has been moved to St Benedict's Chapel to allow eating and drinking to take place during the Prize Giving..

Thursday 22 July 2010

The annual School Leavers' Mass was held during the 1900 evening Mass.

Saturday 31 July 2010

July has supposed to have been the driest and warmest for many years ..... In the south of England – certainly not in the north. Despite a hose pipe ban in the North West these past two weeks have been very wet and un summery. "The wettest July on record".

Monday 1 August 2010

The Probation Service – who have been attending since April on a variety of Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, departed after having made a good clearance of our wooded areas so that there is clear visibility of any activity which might take place there!

Wednesday 1 September 2010

Fr Jude Eze Ebere, from Orlu Diocese in Nigeria, who had arrived on Saturday, took over as supply priest during Fr Gordon's absence on summer holidays.

Thursday 16 September 2010

Pope Benedict XVI arrived at Edinburgh as part of a four day Pastoral Visit. Two Parishioners will be attending his Mass of Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman, at Birmingham on Sunday 19 September. Two because the logistics of the arrangements for the Papal Visit have been so chaotic!

Sunday 19 September 2010

Only 65 attended the 1000 Mass – the lowest ever recorded – and the absentees did not come for the Vigil which only received 60. Was everyone watching the Pope on TV in Birmingham?

Friday 24 September 2010

Fr Jude departed and Father Gordon returned.

Sunday 3 October 2010

At the start of the 1000 Mass the former Organist Judie Blakemore, a professional singing instructor, conducted a Parish signing practice for twenty minutes (Mass was still over by 1100), along with Jean Cavendish. This was as a result of an a non Christian visitor to our Holy Week Triduum having commented "why do Catholics never sing in Church?".

Tuesday 5 October 2010

An e-mail of complaint about Sunday's singing practice – "it was irritating, counter productive and we were treated as Children". Fortunately the eighteen at Tuesday's Mass disagreed!

Saturday 9 October 2010

Three Baptisms took place at the Vigil Mass. Although 168 were present Mass was over by 1850.

Sunday 10 October 2010

For the first time ever an appendix had to be issued to the weekly Notice Sheet due to the number of items having been sent in for inclusion.

Monday 11 October 2011

Lancashire County Council have decided, as a result of national belt tightening, that as from September next year all new pupils being transported to Secondary Schools (ie to St Bede's) will be charged £2 per day. Quite a lot for a family with six children – £60 a week, £2,160 a scholastic year! For a family with one child – £360 a year.

Weekend 16+17 October 2010

A Survey – the first since 2005 – was held at both Masses: a) on the timing of Christmas Midnight Mass, b) as to whether or not the Parish/Pastoral Council should be revived and c) views on the Singing Practice of two weeks ago.

Wednesday 20 October 2010

The first frost – and Siberian Swans have already arrived in the UK – a sign of a "hard" winter ahead! Heavy snow in Aberdeenshire.

Weekend 6+7 November 2010

Archbishop Patrick Kelly presided at the 1800 Vigil and 1000 morning Mass as part of his visitation to the Pastoral Area, which commenced in September.

Monday 8 November 2010

Despite the frost of 20 October it has been a mild autumn which came to a close today. Continuous rain – Lancaster Lane flooded, only 3°C in the north compared with 11°C in the south. The Kirkstone Pass was blocked by snow which also fell in Derbyshire.

Thursday 11 November 2011

.....and the winds blew. 95 mph gales in Blackpool and elsewhere. Parbold Village (but not OLAS) was without power. Millions of pounds worth of damage throughout the North West.

Sunday 14 November 2010

Remembrance Sunday and the Uniformed Organisations attended the 1000 Mass – which custom now has that they will do so every even year. Over 350 were at Mass.

Sunday 21 November 2010

Christ the King and Youth Sunday. The 1000 Mass was a “Youth Mass” organised by Peter Madden. Over four youth played in the Music Group and four youth participated in the Readings.

Thursday 25 November 2010

Snow arrived in Scotland and the NE – the earliest in seventeen years.

A Novena commenced in Church, after the 1900 Mass, which was said by Father Barry (in Father Gordon’s absence in Bamber Bridge. Over one hundred people attended. The Novena was to pray for a Parishioner, Kathryn McCluskey Curran (aet 34), a young mother of three young children, who is suffering from her second bout of Cancer.

Friday 26 November 2010

Snow chaos in Scotland, the North East and South Wales – but not the North West! Temperatures of minus 5°C over night.

Sunday 28 November 2010

The annual Advent Fayre was held in the School after the 1000 Mass.

Deacon David conducted an Advent Reflection at 1800 in Church and will continue to do so on each Sunday of Advent.

Thursday 2 December 2010

Bishop Tom Williams carried out a visitation at Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School.

Thursday 9 December 2010

The thaw, 6°C, after twelve days of frost and cold and after a fortnight of the coldest December weather recorded in a fortnight in the UK since records began.

Wednesday 15 December 2010

The School presented their Christmas Production in Church due to the School Hall being reduced in size because of the building extensions currently taking place. Alas neither the Parish Priest nor Parish Deacon were present. The former having left for Chapter at Ampleforth to avoid the weather forecast on Thursday, the latter being in Cumbria.

Thursday 16 December 2010

Father Barry supplied due to Father Gordon’s absence at Ampleforth’s winter Chapter. As usual (the third year out of four) this Chapter coincided with the start of “the second big freeze”. Another cold, freezing and snow spell. This second spell is forecast to continue until after Christmas. Thus those who are *dreaming of a white Christmas* should not be disappointed! This could be the coldest December since records began.

Saturday 18 December 2010

It started to snow at 1700 last night and this morning it was ten inches deep in the Church driveway. For 1100 Mass there were only three clerics in Church, Father Gordon, Father Barry and Deacon David, although by the Offertory one brave Parishioner had arrived. At the 1800 Mass there were only twenty-two people in the Congregation. Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound had to be cancelled.

Sunday 19 December 2010

Mass attendance was not too bad despite the driveway and Car Park being closed and the temperature in Parbold at 0930 being minus 12°C!

Tuesday 21 December 2010

The temperature in Parbold at 1400 was minus 13°C – quite mild compared to minus 17°C at Crosby – sixteen miles west! The coldest December since records began in 1890.

The Advent Service of Reconciliation was held – using an Archdiocesan format involving a Candle blessed by the Pope during his visit to the UK and William Holman Hunt's painting of *The Light of the World* – also blessed by Pope Benedict at Hyde Park on 18 September.

Thursday 23 December 2010

The first Postal delivery since last Friday. No deliveries this week because of “elf and safety” – the poor Postman might slip!

Two Parishioners – Paul Quirk and Peter Ainscough arranged for the Church driveway and Car Park to be cleared of snow by one of Peter's diggers, in time for Christmas. The only snow which fell was last Friday to Saturday – ten inches of it – but due to the temperature never going above zero none of it has thawed.

Friday 24 + Saturday 25 December 2010

Christmas attendances were the same as in previous years despite the cold and snowy conditions.

Monday 27 December 2010

The thaw commences.

Thursday 30 December 2010

Christmas Mail is still arriving at this late date due to the “elf and safety” regulations preventing the Mailman doing his rounds during the snow! Some of today's deliveries had been franked on 15 December.

Father Barry said the evening Mass and will supply tomorrow and for the 1100 on Saturday whilst Father Gordon attends New Year in Scotland.

31 December 2010

Annual Mass attendance, which had remained static since the demise of the 0830 Mass in April 2000, dropped in June 2009 and has not resurrected. Instead of the usual annual average of 195-200 attending Mass at the weekend in 2010 the average attendance dropped to 176 – a 9% drop – mostly from the Saturday Vigil Mass.

This December has been the coldest on record (ie since 1890) with the average temperature being minus 1°C. It has also been the coldest month since 1985.