

Parish of St Francis' of Assisi 2020



St Francis church was built circa 1934 to provide for the Catholic community of the expanding areas of the west of Linthorpe, Acklam and Whinney Banks. The parish area originally covered the whole of Acklam, through Brookfield and up to Hemlington. St Clare's and the "new" Cathedral stand in that part of the original parish area which for most of the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's was mainly arable area. With the residential development of Acklam (south) and Brookfield, St Clare's church was built and established in 1967 to ease the tremendous congregation pressure that was being felt at St. Francis' (then with a Parish Priest assisted by two curates celebrating at least 4 Masses every Sunday plus Masses at Hemlington hospital).

In subsequent years at St. Francis, the pressures of congregation were continually reducing but, nevertheless, sufficient to warrant daily Masses and two Sunday Masses under the care of a single parish priest. Meanwhile, St Clare's also had daily Masses and Sunday Mass.

However, in 2013 the reduced congregation at both St. Francis' and St. Clare's, together with a diocesan clergy reducing manpower, made for further major change. In August of that year, at the time of St. Francis' parish priest reaching retirement age, the parish of St. Francis and that of St. Clare's were brought together under the care of a single parish priest.

The churches of St Francis and St Clare's are administered by the clergy of St Mary's Cathedral led by Monsignor Gerard Robinson and his team.

Volunteers are always welcome and must be DBS checked. Full support will be given.

St Francis of Assisi, Acklam is a member of the diocese of Middlesbrough. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Middlesbrough consists of the boroughs of Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees (south of the river), the cities of Kingston upon Hull and York, East Yorkshire and most of North Yorkshire.

This leaflet will provide you with information about our parish activities, including clubs, groups etc. that run within the parish and are open to all parishioners. We hope this will help you to feel at home here and encourage you to become part of our friendly community.

Very Rev. Monsignor Canon Gerard Robinson V.G. M.B.A., M.Th., M.A.Lit. is our parish priest, who can be contacted at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Dalby Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough TS8 0TW

St Francis of Assisi RC Church
5 Levick Crescent
Middlesbrough TS5 4RL



St Clare's RC Church
102 Low Lane
Middlesbrough TS5 8EB



Saint Mary's Cathedral
Dalby Way
Coulby Newham
Middlesbrough TS8 0TW



Parish Pastoral Council

The purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) shall be to share with the Parish Priest the responsibility of the development and well-being of the spiritual and temporal life of the parish community.

The Parish Pastoral Council main aims are:

- Develop a vision of the parish's preferred future
- Identifies and prioritises the parish needs
- Draws practical solutions

Parish Pastoral Council members

Member	Email address	Tel. number
Very Rev. Mgr. Gerard Robinson (President)	parish@middlesbroughrccathedral.org	01642597750
Fr. Albert Schembri	parish@middlesbroughrccathedral.org	01642597750
Mark O'Donnell (Chair)	mark@thediningroom.org.uk	01642325418
Anthony Burgess	anthonyburgess@ntlworld.com	01642819996
John Shipley	john.shipley@ntlworld.com	01642319138
Val Atkins	valerie.atkins@ntlworld.com	01642284462
Theresa Davies	cal.davies@me.com	01642591009
David Akerman	dave.akerman@hotmail.co.uk	01642284845

Children's liturgy

Our younger children go out from the Sunday Mass to the presbytery for their own liturgy of the Word. As well as saying prayers the children listen to a simplified explanation of the Gospel. They also take part in a variety of activities and return at the Offertory Procession, usually with gifts of their work. Very young children need to be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are always welcome and full support will be given. For further details please contact Mary Shipley, tel. 01642319138

Sacramental preparation

Baptism

If you would like your child to be baptised we have two preparation courses, one at St Clare's and the other at the Cathedral one of which must be attended. Please contact the Secretary at the Cathedral, Tuesday & Friday, 9 am-1 pm, tel 01642 597750. Baptismal forms are available at all three churches and these must be completed and sent to the Cathedral.

First Confession and First Holy Communion

St Clare's RC Primary School will be the meeting place for the Holy Communion preparation meetings. The children and parents will be asked to attend all parish sacramental preparation programmes along with the catechists Mary Shipley and Mgr Robinson. The primary school at St Clare's will be fully involved in the preparation of your children as well. Full dates of the programme and indeed the celebration of the sacraments will be given during the course of the meetings. Contact Mgr. Robinson, tel 01642 597750 for any further details.

Confirmation

Parishioners who wish to be Confirmed will be asked to enrol in the Parish Confirmation Programme in January. We are aiming this at Year 8 and above. The preparation programme will be at the Cathedral Parish, dates are on the notice boards.

Marriage

Marriage preparation is arranged by Mgr Robinson, tel 01642 597750. Many couples book up to two years in advance in order to ensure the date.

Ministers of Holy Communion

These are parishioners who assist with the distribution of Communion on a rota basis; the rota is organised by Theresa Davies, tel. 01642591009 or Janice Slater (St Francis), tel. If you would like a Minister to visit a housebound or sick person with Communion, please contact Monsignor Robinson, tel. 01642 597750, Theresa Davies (St Clare's), tel. 01642591009 or Janice Slater (St Francis), tel. 07707667086.

Ministers of the Word

These are parishioners who read at Mass on a rota basis; the rota is prepared by Theresa Davies (St Clare's), tel. 01642591009. Val Atkins (St Clare's), tel. 01642284462 or Janice Slater (St Francis), tel. 07707667086.

Ministers of the Sick

Mgr. Gerard Robinson, Fr. Albert Schembri and parishioners visit the sick (at home or in hospital).

Offertory procession

Theresa Davies (St Clare's), tel. 01642591009.

Finance committee

Our Finance committee is chaired by Monsignor Robinson, tel. 01642 597750, assisted by Dave Akerman, tel. 01642284845. Dave is always happy to answer any questions you may have about the parish finances.

Buildings

Buildings are looked after by John Shipley, tel. 01642319138

Child protection

St Francis is committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk. As part of this commitment, we aim to have three Safeguarding Representatives performing this vital role. Frances Flood, tel. 01642815104, Marie Mead tel. 01642287404.

St Anne's club

This club for retired ladies takes place each Thursday afternoon in the parish hall. Please contact Ellen McGee, (St Francis) tel. 01642862295 for further details.

Craft club (St Francis)

This meets on the first Saturday of the month in the parish hall from 2 pm till 5 pm. Everyone is welcome, although very young children do need to be accompanied by an adult. For further details please contact Marie Mead, tel. 01642287404.

Knitting & Craft (St Clare's)

Practised in the Meeting Room at St Clare's on a Friday afternoon. New members would be made very welcome. Please contact Theresa Davies (St Clare's), tel. 01642591009.

Brookside and Kader Walking Group (St Clare's)

Wednesday mornings starting from St Clare's church.

St Francis' parish social club

This is a popular club which is situated above the parish hall. The hall can be booked for private functions and community activities by contacting Maureen Smith, tel. 01642815264 at the club. Further details are available from the Club Secretary, Peter Dunne, tel. 07521097144.

After Mass tea and coffee

The parish of St Francis is a certified Fairtrade parish. This means that we use Fairtrade tea and coffee at all parish functions, and are moving towards using other Fairtrade items as much as possible. Fairtrade tea and coffee is served in the parish hall after 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. There is a rota to help with the serving of the tea and coffee and new helpers are always welcome. Please contact Frances Flood, (St Francis) tel. 01642815104 or Marie Mead, (St Francis) tel. 01642287404.

Mass welcome

Martin Deacy organises this at St Clare's, tel. 01642819457

Music

St Francis

Mary Early, (St Francis, Sundays and special occasions) tel.

01642281864.

Carol Buse, 01642293062 (St Francis, first and third of the month, Saturday evening Mass).

St Clare's

John Waring, (St Clare's) tel. 01642482553.

Altar servers

Anyone wishing to become an altar server should contact Fr Albert Schembri, tel 01642 597750.

Choir

Our choir leader is Raynor Smith (St Francis). Anyone wishing to join the choir should contact Raynor tel. 01642283053 or John Waring, (St Clare's) tel. 01642482553.

Counters

We have a team of people who count the collection after Masses on Saturday and Sunday morning on a rota basis. Anyone wishing to join the team should contact Mark O'Donnell (St Francis), tel. 01642325418, Theresa Davies, (St Clare's) tel. 01642591009. or Val Atkins, (St Clare's) tel. 01642284462.

Church cleaning

There is a rota for church cleaning and linen washing. If you would like to volunteer please contact Ellen McGee, (St Francis) tel. 01642862295 or Marlene McCarthy, (St Clare's) tel. 01642593409.

Church flowers

The flowers in church are arranged and maintained by Margaret Clarke (St Francis), tel. 01642819599 or Gwen Waite (St Clare's), tel. 01642592749 or Geraldine Rodgers, tel. 01642593901.

Church gardening

Dave Flannigan look after the parish grounds. If you would like to join him then tel. 01642823175

200 club

The St Francis 200 Club is run by Frances Flood tel. 01642815104 and Marie Mead, tel. 01642287404. The St. Clare's 200 club is run by Theresa Davies, tel. 01642591009 and Val Atkins, tel. 01642284462.

Piety stall

A variety of religious items are displayed and offered for sale before & after the Sunday 10.30am Mass. Esther McNeil, tel. 01642863234, organises the stall. Esther would be happy to deal with any specific requests for items not normally stocked.

Traidcraft store

Last weekend of the month. Contact Janice Slater, (St Francis) tel. 07707667086. A Fairtrade stall is held regularly after weekend Masses in both churches.

Ethiopian hospital

The parish has adopted a teaching hospital, St. Luke's, Wolisso, in Ethiopia, and this interest was initiated by the late Dr. John O'Neil; it now continues under the auspices of his son, Dr. Patrick O'Neil. Various fund-raising events are arranged throughout the year. Ideas for events are always welcome.

Justice and peace group

This is a group which helps to raise awareness of social issues and promotes CAFOD and its campaigns. It also organises events in support of the Ethiopian hospital. St. Luke's Hospital is now running very well and so our fund-raising has been expanded to include help to a maternity school, a dental clinic, two primary care clinics, as well as a new hospital in Karediboma and one in Ikele, both of which are in Tanzania. The Group welcomes new members - any age and availability! It only involves attending an evening meeting once a month, usually on the first Thursday of the month. Please speak to any of our members or ring Helen Russell on 07912 561713 if you might be able to join.

Association for the Propagation of the Faith

The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) assists each and every one of the Catholic Church's 1,069 mission dioceses to provide pastoral care and preach the Gospel effectively. The APF in England and Wales works collaboratively with the Mill Hill Missionary Society; the only major missionary society to have been formed in England. Mill Hill missionaries are sent to the most remote places in the world to show the love of Christ to those who are in need, both spiritually and materially. APF red boxes are available from Ken Binks, tel. 01642813335 or Pat Ward (St Clare's), tel. 01642592348. Ken and Pat are always looking for helpers.

Journey in Faith

This course is held in the Cathedral. Those wanting to know more contact Mgr. Robinson, tel 01642 597750 for any further details.

Apostleship of the sea

This is the Catholic Church's outreach to the one million international seafarers who visit our ports each year. Our parish contact for this essential work is Theresa Davies, tel. 01642591009. She would be pleased to advise anyone interested in becoming a port team volunteer, a ship visitor or a knitter-of-woolly-hats (which seafarers are always extremely grateful for).

Children's playgroup

St Francis Playgroup provides a caring, safe, stimulating and fun environment where babies, toddlers and children under the age of five can play alongside each other. We meet every Tuesday between 10am and 12pm in the parish hall. There are a variety of toys for the children and parents get to meet, chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Contact Rachael Plant, tel. 07503159417 or Kate Bennett, tel. 07725004254.

Parish newsletter

The parish newsletter is prepared each week by Mgr Robinson, tel 01642 597750, and any item or notice for inclusion in the newsletter should be submitted to him by Thursday, email: parish@middlesbroughrccathedral.org.

Parish website

The website www.stfrancisacklam.co.uk is organised and updated by Brian Gibbon, tel. 01642863245, our web manager. It is updated weekly with a copy of the parish newsletter for those unable to attend St. Francis' and St Clare's on a Sunday plus other parish information.

Catholic schools

School	Address	Telephone	Headteacher
St Clare's	Trimdon Ave.	01642815412	Mrs Elizabeth Eddies
St Edward's	Eastbourne Rd.	01642819507	Mrs Mary Brown
Sacred Heart	Ayresome St.	01642616083	Mrs Carol Walker
Trinity College	Saltersgill Ave.	01642298100	Mrs Louise Dywer

Weekend Masses

Saturday (Vigil Mass)	Lady Chapel Shrine	4.00pm
Saturday (Vigil Mass)	St Francis'	6.00 pm
Saturday (Vigil Mass)	St Mary's Cathedral	6.30 pm
Sunday	St Clare's	9.30 am
Sunday	St Mary's Cathedral	10.00 am
Sunday	St Francis'	10.30 am
Sunday	St Mary's Cathedral	5.00pm

Weekday Mass times are as published in the parish newsletter.

Confessions

Saturday	St Mary's Cathedral	9.45am – 10.30am
Saturday	Lady Chapel Shrine	3.15pm – 3.45pm
Saturday	St Francis'	5.15pm – 5.45pm
Saturday	St Mary's Cathedral	5.45pm – 6.15pm

Expositions

Thursday	St Francis'	12.0 pm
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