

Attendance and Collection

10th Aug Attendance 65 Collection £154.00

17th Aug Attendance 52 Collection £152.00

Parishioners Who are Unwell

If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please notify Father Sony on 01772 865229 for inclusion in the Bidding Prayers or newsletter.

Feast Days

Mon – St. Louis

Tues – Blessed Dominic Barberi

Wed – St. Monica

Thurs – St. Augustine

Fri – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Sat – Sts. Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line ,Margaret Ward

CAFOD's WORLD PRAYER MAP: United in Prayer for our sisters and brothers

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/world-prayer-map>

Our sisters and brothers in so many countries face immense difficulties due to conflict, violence, injustice and natural disasters. You can use the prayer map to pray for our world, in solidarity with our global family

Pilgrimage to St Mary's Cleator CA23 3AB Sunday September 7th.

The Pilgrimage is held every year and In this centenary year of the Diocese of Lancaster, the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes will be a significant one.

The communities of Cleator and Cleator Moor were dependent on the mining and iron industries, and during the Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s, times were very difficult for many. Fr. Clayton (priest in Cleator from 1904 to 1954) placed an appeal in the national Catholic press, and generous support was received from around the country. To provide employment for some of the parishioners Fr. Clayton bought some land adjoining the church's site and asked for volunteers to help construct a replica of the Grotto at Lourdes. These volunteers were rewarded with vouchers for food and clothing.

The Grotto was opened on the 30th October 1927, and rapidly became a focus for pilgrimage from all parts of the diocese. The theme for the Pilgrimage this year is 'Mary, Mother of the Church. People are asked to meet outside St Mary's Church in Cleator at 2.40pm and (weather permitting) process to the Grotto. The bishop will say mass there at 3.pm and bless the sick. Tea and coffee will be provided .



St Francis Hill Chapel

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Preston PR32FJ

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Clergy: Fr Sony Jose Kadamthodu

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Parish Safeguarding Representative –Maria Peel

**Sunday 24th August 2025
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings – Year C Mass 10.30am

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron St Francis of Assisi, seeks to be a welcoming Catholic Community by living, sharing and growing in faith. We strive to deepen our own relationship with Christ and meet the needs of others.

Mass intention is for Morland Cowell

We pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially

Bill Bamber, Shirley Walker & Frank Morris

We remember John Henry Fayre whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Coffee and tea will be served at the back of church after mass.

Homemade Jam & Crumble

Liz Woods will be selling Damson Jam and Blackberry and Apple Crumble after mass this week - all proceeds to the church . Thank you

From the Archives

A few years ago, we attended mass at the church of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Malta. I had never heard of Maximilian Kolbe but, the day we were there, 14 August, happened to be his feast day, so I soon discovered what a fascinating and courageous person he was, and how he came to be the patron saint of prisoners, drug addicts, journalists, and the pro-life movement.

Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894, His mother's dedication to our Blessed Lady, reciting the Angelus and the Rosary daily, strongly influenced his own life-long devotion to the Immaculate Conception. Together with his older brother, Maximilian entered a local Franciscan seminary as a teenager. At the age of eighteen his superiors sent him to study in Rome, where he earned doctorates in philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest in 1918 and then returned to the new post-World War 1 Poland. For the next twenty plus years, Father Maximilian powered his way through life. He taught in a Franciscan seminary. He started an immense publishing house which printed devotional materials, and he founded a new Franciscan monastery, which rapidly grew into one of the largest in Poland. And in 1930 he became a missionary to the Far East. He went to China, had little success, and so went on to Japan, where he founded a monastery near Nagasaki. He also started a publishing house in India. In 1936 he returned to Poland due to ill health, but continued to manage various Marian publications, which were widely circulated, and even procured a radio licence and began broadcasting from his own monastery radio station.

When the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, Fr. Kolbe's work was curtailed. However, he organised a hospital at the monastery and, along with the reduced community of brothers, gave shelter to refugees, including about 2,000 Jews. This led to his arrest

by the Germans, and he was held prisoner for almost three months. He was pressured, but refused, to sign a document recognising his German ancestry (Kolbe's father was an ethnic German) in exchange for more food rations and better treatment. Then in February 1941, Nazi SS men came and closed his monastery. Fr. Kolbe and four other friars were arrested and transferred to the heavy labour division of Auschwitz. For a short period, in the horror of Auschwitz, he carried out his priestly ministry as best he could and endured severe beatings for it. In July, just two months after he arrived, a prisoner escaped from the camp. As both a deterrent and reprisal, the head of the camp ordered ten men to be starved to death in the escapee's place. The victims were chosen at random from a prisoner roll call. One of those chosen was a married man named Francis. He begged for mercy as he was a family man with a wife and children. What followed this desperate pleading was profound and left an indelible impression on all who witnessed it. Possibly inspired that the chosen man shared the name Francis with the founder of his religious order, Fr. Kolbe is said to have slowly emerged from the bedraggled group of prisoners. He spoke directly to the commanding officer in German: "I want to take his place, because he has a wife and children. I am a Catholic priest." A few moments of silence and then the officer replied, "Right!"

After two weeks of no food or water in a bunker, a guard injected carbolic acid into the arm of Fr. Kolbe on August 14. His body was cremated the next day, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. The man whose life he saved, Francis Gajowniczek, lived for another fifty-three years, to the age of 93, dying in 1995. He was present in Rome when Pope Saint John Paul II, who lived just an hour from Auschwitz in 1941, canonised his fellow Polish Saint Maximilian Kolbe in 1982.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, you were prepared to be generous in your last moments by a long life of sacrifice, humility, and devotion. May we so prepare ourselves day in and day out, so that when a moment of heroic generosity presents itself, we will respond like you. Mike Bryan

