

## People of the Word: Jesse

Last week we heard of **Ruth**, a Moabite woman who came to Israel and settled in Bethlehem. She and her husband Boaz had a son, Obed, who became the father of **Jesse**.



Jesse's main significance is that he is the father of King David, one of the great figures of the Old Testament. He's mentioned in the genealogies of Jesus in the gospels (Matthew 1:5-6 and Luke 3:32) and at the end of the book of Ruth, but most of what we know about him comes from the first book of Samuel. He appears to be a wealthy farmer, able to send gifts to king Saul, and is apparently a well-respected member of the community.

The prophet Isaiah, foretelling the coming of the Messiah, invokes Jesse's name: "A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse; a scion thrusts from his roots" (Isaiah 11:1). In Christian art the ancestors of Christ are sometimes shown on a 'Jesse Tree' (pictured), with Jesse shown at the root, reminding us that the Saviour comes from his line.



### Questions for reflection:

- Jesse is the 'root' from which our Lord was born. What seeds do I plant in my life? Seeds of faith, hope and love, helping others to come to the Lord?
- If you have children or grandchildren, how can you help to nurture their faith in Jesus, our Saviour?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Important: the church is closed until further notice**, as public gatherings are suspended to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Mass and other services are livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at [www.saintclares.co.uk](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	People of the Parish
Monday	10am		Intentions of Bernard Loveland
Tuesday	10am		Kathleen Smith RIP
Wednesday	10am		May & Bill Hargreaves RIP
Thursday	10am	<b>ST GEORGE Patron of England</b>	Peter Hampson RIP
Friday	10am		Anne Topping RIP
Saturday	10am	<b>St Mark</b>	Gerard and Janice Wilson – Golden Wedding
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	People of the Parish

A full timetable for this week is the back page of the newsletter.

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Kathleen Smith, Jim Grant**, and all those who have died recently.

**LITURGY OF THE HOURS:** Sung Vespers and Benediction will be streamed live on our YouTube channel on Sunday at 4:30pm.

**ROSARY:** Prayed after 10am Mass, Monday-Friday.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** James Greenwood, Len Jones, Victor McGowan, Mary Sinnott, Anne Topping, May Hargreaves, Peter Hampson.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:** We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

### Supporting your parish financially during the lockdown

Many people have asked how they can contribute to the parish financially at a time when almost all parish income has dried up. If you are still earning and able to contribute, you can save up offertory envelopes until the lockdown ends. Some people have asked for details of how to donate by standing order/BACS. If you contact us directly we can give the details, if you would like to help in this way. Thank you for thinking of us – please only contribute if you are able.

## Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping well. It feels like a very long time since the lockdown began, and, knowing that we still have a while to go does not make it any easier! Personally I am trying to draw on the wisdom which teaches us to take each day, each moment, as it comes, and not worry about the rest. The Lord Himself taught us to live like this!

James and I would like to say thanks for the many cards, gifts and Easter messages we have received from you. It's so kind of you to think of us, especially in these times, and we're really grateful for your kindness, encouragement and prayers. Speaking of James, he's made an excellent short video about how the saints are with us when we attend Mass, even online. It's on YouTube and well worth a look.

Easter has only just begun, of course – it's a 50-day season – so let's continue to celebrate the Lord's resurrection as well as we can. In the parish we get back to what is becoming our 'normal' timetable for the lockdown (full details on back page) but there are some extra events, including devotions to Divine Mercy this Sunday at 3pm. We're also looking at plans for other events which were due to take place (for example, the May Procession) to see if we can adapt them for some sort of online version. Watch this space!

Thanks for your continuing generosity with donations to the Food Bank. We continue to do what we can as a parish to care for those in need, and I know that many of you are looking out for neighbours and fellow parishioners, which is great to see. As always, please let us know if you need help or if you are concerned for anyone you know. The parish will certainly help, if we can.

With great sadness I learnt that Kathleen Smith died last weekend. Kath was a very long-standing parishioner and was always present at Saturday evening Mass. Please remember her, Reg and all their family in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of the risen Lord, and rise with Him in glory. On a much happier note, Fatima and Thanikachalam celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Friday, so we wish them and their family every blessing both now and for the years ahead.

I'm aware that there are still many parishioners that I haven't yet had chance to speak to during the lockdown. Be assured, you are not forgotten and I hope to speak to you soon. Feel free to ring me, too – it's always lovely to hear from you. Every day I remember the whole parish in my prayers, and you are very often in my thoughts. The risen Lord continues to walk with us, wherever we are, and He will not abandon us. Always trust in Him. God bless you all, Fr Andrew.

# **A prayer of spiritual communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## **Full Timetable for the Week**

All services listed here are streamed live at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

**Mass:** 10am

**Divine Mercy devotions and Chaplet:** 3pm

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 4-5pm

**Sung Vespers and Benediction:** 4:30pm

### **Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday**

**Mass:** 10am

**Rosary:** 10:30am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 4-5pm

### **Saturday:**

**Mass:** 10am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 10:30am-12noon

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April: Second Sunday of Easter**

**Mass:** 10am

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** 4-5pm

**Sung Vespers and Benediction:** 4:30pm

## **200 Club**

The draw will be made as usual on the third Sunday of the month (this weekend). An email will be sent out with the winners' details.