

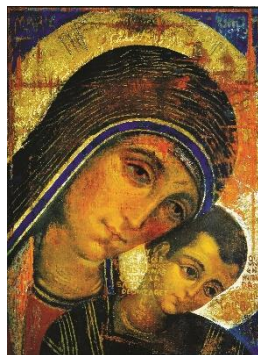
People of the Word: Mary

Over the last few months we've met many people who had an important role to play in God's plan of salvation – we can think, for example, of Abraham, Moses, King David or the prophets. But none had a role so important as **Mary**, chosen to be the mother of the Saviour.



THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

Mary was filled with grace from the moment of her conception, and so prepared by God to be the mother of the Lord. But, like all of us, she had to accept this call: she was free to do God's will or to refuse. St Luke describes the moment the Angel Gabriel announced her vocation and she accepted: "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:26-38). At this moment Mary was a young woman, insignificant in the eyes of the world, living in a small and unimportant village called Nazareth. God often chooses those whom the world considers unimportant to do His work (1 Corinthians 1:26-31). Mary's acceptance led to her being exalted by God: "Henceforth all generations will call me blessed", she says (Luke 1:48). Those who humble themselves will be exalted, as Jesus teaches.



Mary appears several times in the Gospels: at the wedding at Cana, where Jesus works His first miracle (John 2:1-12), during His ministry, and most notably at the foot of the cross, where Jesus gave her to be our mother (John 19:27). She prayed with the Apostles in the days before Pentecost (Acts 1:14). Finally, the Book of Revelation speaks of a woman "clothed with the sun" as a great sign in heaven (Revelation 12:1) – a figure long understood by the Church as an image of Mary, taken up into heavenly glory as a sign of hope for us all.

Questions for reflection:

- Do I see myself as the Lord's handmaid/servant, always ready to do His will?
- How do I allow myself to be humbled, so that I may be exalted by the Lord?

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

Tel: 01772 719604 email: enquiries@saintclares.co.uk

www.saintclares.co.uk Social Media: @StClareFulwood

Lancaster RC Diocesan Trustees Registered – Registered Charity No. 234331

St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs A. Charnley

Tel: 01772 787037 Fax: 01772 787016 email: head@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk

MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 21

10am Mass is 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

See next page for information on attending Mass in the church.

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 23 rd August	Vigil Mass	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
	10am		Barbara Webb RIP
	Evening		Jean and John Cullerton
Monday	10am	St Bartholomew	Special Intention (A.E.)
Tuesday	10am		Amose Masilamani RIP
Wednesday	10am		Maria and Ian Rigby – Golden Wedding
Thursday	10am	St Monica	Bernie Darwen – 90 th
Friday	10am	St Augustine	Jeff Poole RIP
Saturday	10am	The Passion of St John the Baptist	Brenda Feeney RIP
Sunday 30 th August	Vigil Mass	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Romeo Pereira RIP
	10am		People of the Parish
	Evening		Andrew Graham RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **David McCabe**, whose funeral will take place this week, and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: on request. Contact Fr Andrew to arrange.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: John Battersby, Andrew Lyons, Joyce Wilcox, Richard Singleton, Clare Therese Southworth, Teresa Kirby, Thomas Geoghegan.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: We pray for those who live and work from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Supporting your parish financially

To avoid use of cash, it is better, if possible, to support the parish using standing order/BACS. Contact us directly for the details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. If you have been saving offertory envelopes, these may be pushed through the presbytery letterbox or handed in at the end of Mass, if you are able to attend at this time. Thank you for your support for our parish.

ATTENDING MASS: Wherever possible, please decide on a **regular day/time** when you would like to attend Mass then contact us to see what's possible. We will get contact you to let you know when you can come. Please only come to Mass if you have received confirmation that we have sufficient space.

To arrange to come to Mass: Please contact us (preferably by email – if you don't use email, please phone us) and let us know the following information:

- Your name (and, if you are not using email, a phone number)
- The day(s) when you would be able to attend. If at the weekend, please let us know morning/evening. Monday-Friday Mass will continue to be at 10am.
- How many people from your household/support bubble will attend (you will sit together at Mass, so it's vital we know how many are in your group).

There is still no obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday at this time.

CONFESSIONS are available by request/appointment. Contact Fr Andrew.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS which were due to take place earlier in the year have been rescheduled, as many of the causes we support rely on this income to survive. If you have already submitted a contribution by envelope please do not give a second time! Details will be published on the newsletter in the coming weeks.

PRIVATE PRAYER: The church is open for one hour each day for private prayer. The full opening times can be found on the back of the newsletter.

WEARING FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH is now required by law. If you are attending Mass or visiting for private prayer, please bring a face covering with you.

FACE COVERINGS AVAILABLE: A parishioner is willing to make washable face coverings for any members of the parish who are in need of these, free of charge. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

FOOD BANK: Non-perishable items may be left on the presbytery porch at any time. Please do not bring anything frozen or which needs to be kept in the fridge, nor any fresh fruit, vegetables or dairy products. Thank you for your generosity.

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK: Community Gateway has a stock of second-hand uniforms for local schools. If you know of a family who may benefit, they can refer themselves at <https://www.communitygateway.co.uk/uniformbank>

RWANDA TRUST: Unfortunately the Rwanda Trust shop in town has now closed, but fundraising continues. Michael Donlan is doing a sponsored walk. To donate, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rgtmichael-donlan>

MAILING LIST: The newsletter and Sunday homily can be posted out to parishioners who do not have access to the internet. If you know of someone who would appreciate this, please let us know and we will arrange it.

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 23 rd	3pm-4pm	Church open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Saturday	12noon-1pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Sunday 30 th	3pm-4pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube

All events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

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

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.

A prayer for our parish

At this difficult and uncertain time for us all, we are in great need of prayer. Let's ask our parish's patroness, St Clare, to intercede for us and for our whole parish community.

St Clare, who chose a life of poverty,
prayer and humble service,
watch over this parish which bears your name.
Bless and protect our community
and intercede for us,
that we may come closer to Jesus
and grow in His likeness,
who lives and reigns
for ever and ever. Amen.

St Clare, pray for us.

