

People of the Word: Joseph

Today we focus on **Joseph**, the husband of Mary.

In the Gospel accounts of the events around the birth of our Lord, St Luke tells the story from Mary's point of view (the Annunciation, the Visitation), whereas St Matthew's Gospel gives us the narrative from Joseph's standpoint. He is already betrothed to Mary when she is found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. St Matthew describes him as "a man of honour" who mercifully decides to quietly separate from Mary. But an angel tells him in a dream to take her as his wife. He does so, and they travel to Bethlehem to be registered in a census. It is on this visit that Jesus is born. Soon afterwards, Joseph is warned in another dream of Herod's plan to kill the child, so they escape into safety in Egypt before returning to Nazareth after Herod's death. In his dreams, St Joseph reminds us of the Old Testament patriarch of the same name, who had dreams from God and interpreted the dreams of others (Genesis 37-50).



THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

In Luke 2:41-50 Joseph and Mary make a pilgrimage with Jesus to Jerusalem. On the return journey they realise that the child has been left behind, and go back to search for Him. Jesus tells them that He was going about His "Father's business" – a reminder that not Joseph, but God, is His Father. After this Joseph does not appear in the Gospel again, and it is presumed that he died before Jesus' adult life. He is a patron saint of workers (as he was a carpenter) and of a happy death, as he died, it is believed, with Jesus and Mary at his side.

Questions for reflection:

- Am I open to changing my plans for God, as St Joseph was?
- How do I prepare for, and pray about, the moment I will leave this life?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 22

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 30 th August	Vigil Mass	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Romeo Pereira RIP
	10am		People of the Parish
	Evening		Andrew Graham RIP
Monday	10am		John and Veronica Baines RIP
Tuesday	10am		Robert Thomson RIP
Wednesday	10am		Ints Sr Christina King SHCJ
Thursday	10am	St Gregory the Great	Damian Bates RIP
Friday	10am	St Cuthbert	Ints David Wilkinson
Saturday	10am		Ints Christine Troger
Sunday 6 th Sept.	Vigil Mass	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Tony Bannon RIP
	10am		Mary Bamber RIP
	Evening		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **David McCabe**, whose funeral took place last 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: Anthony McCambridge, Beatrice Lynch, Robert Thomson, Joe Worden, Leonard Dean.

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.

RETURN TO SCHOOL: As our schools return this week, we keep in our prayers all pupils, staff, families and members of the school communities. We wish everyone a productive and joyful year. Please remember especially in your prayers the Catholic schools of our parish: St Clare's and Corpus Christi.

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.

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.

SAINTS, SCHOLARS AND SPIRITUAL MASTERS: Free online talks organised by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, taking place Thursdays at 7:30pm over the coming months. To register: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/> or by email to events@christianheritagecentre.com

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME: We celebrate the Season of Creation between 1 September to 4 October. CAFOD ask us particularly to pray the Novena to St Francis <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis>. It is a song of penitence and praise, guiding us to care for the earth and for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers, especially the Amazon peoples.

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.

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.

