

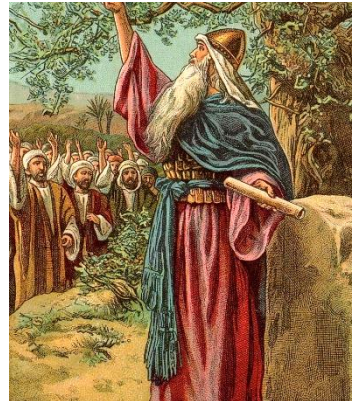
People of the Word: Joshua

After forty years of wondering through the desert, the Israelites finally reached the land they had been promised by God. But it was not Moses that would lead them into this Promised Land: it was **Joshua**, his successor.



This is important for us, because the name 'Joshua' is the Hebrew form of the name 'Jesus'. This event in salvation history is a prophecy: as Joshua led the people into the 'Promised Land', so Jesus will be the one who will finally, definitively, lead God's people into the Promised Land of Heaven, the eternal home that God prepares for His people.

Joshua is the first character to have a book of the Bible named after him. It tells of how the Israelites spread through the land, distributing a portion of land to each of the twelve tribes. Amongst the most famous stories is the fall of Jericho. After several days of seige, the city wall collapsed and God's people entered in. Although stories of conquest seem strange and uncomfortable to us, the main points of the book are these: that it was God who gave the land, rather than a victory won by the people; and that, on entering the land, the people were not to mix faith in God with superstitions or worship of false gods. The faith that God had given must be kept pure.



Questions for reflection:

- Do I look forward to and prepare for the Promised Land of heaven?
- Do I truly recognise that everything I have is a gift from God?
- Do I ever put my trust in superstitions or show love for false gods?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Important: the church will be closed when Mass is celebrated until further notice, as public gatherings are suspended to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Mass will be 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

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 22 nd	10am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Robin Day RIP
Monday	10am		John Baines RIP
Tuesday	10am		Mrs J Cullerton RIP
Wednesday	10am	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	People of the Parish
Thursday	10am		Thanksgiving
Friday	10am		Brenda Feeney RIP
Saturday 28 th	10am		Angela and Gerard Waddingham – wedding anniversary
Sunday 29 th March	10am	Fifth Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish

All Masses will be celebrated in private. At other times the church will be open for private prayer. A full timetable for this week can be found on the back page of the parish newsletter.

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for all who have died recently.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Sung Vespers and Benediction will be streamed live on our YouTube channel on Sunday at 5:15pm.

CONFESSIONS: Only on request: contact us to make arrangements.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Available on our YouTube channel from Sunday.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass.

ST ANTHONY: March wall box donations will go to local people in need of help.

ANNIVERSARIES: Wilfred Foy, Richard Atkinson, Ian Gregson, Roseanne Dorning, Steven Coop, Theresa Higham, Isabella Main, May Flood, Thomas McGowan, Stephen Ambler, Mary Bradley, Dorothy Cavanagh, Winifred Wakeham, Clifford Critchley, Anne Connor.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS MARCH: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity

A message from Father Andrew

Dear Friends,

Over the last few days we have all been thinking very much about the challenges that lie ahead. Life is going to be very different for us all in the coming weeks, perhaps months. Personally, I am very aware of the worries and concerns of so many people – anxieties about our own health or the health of our loved ones; concern for those who will be isolated; worries about the impact of the virus on jobs and businesses. We also have a great concern for our community: how can we stay together at a time when we will be physically isolated from each other?

Our parish will play a key role in this. Drawn together by Christ, we remain together even when we cannot be physically with one another. I've been very happy to receive so many offers from parishioners willing to give their time to offer help and support to those who are isolated or who need practical assistance with shopping, collecting medicines and so on. Do you need help? Do you know anyone who needs help? Please contact the parish and we can offer some support.

We must also stay close to the Lord. God is a source of strength and comfort in times of uncertainty. It's all the more difficult, then, that we will not be able to gather together for Mass at a time when we feel additional need of the Lord. But the Mass will go on. It is the Lord's work, not ours. Whenever Mass is celebrated, God opens up for us the fountain of grace which springs from the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Each day I will offer Mass in our parish at 10am. Although the church will be closed at these times, if you have access to the internet you can watch the Mass, which will be streamed live on our YouTube channel and available for viewing afterwards. Watch the Mass, but – more importantly – pray the Mass. If you can, light a candle, place a crucifix and an image of Our Lady near your screen. Stand, sit and kneel at the times you normally would. Dress as you would if you were coming to the church. If there are others in the house with you, pray the Mass together. At each Mass I will pray an act of spiritual communion, and invite you to pray this with me. God's grace can overcome any physical barrier, as long as our hearts remain open to Him.

We will be posting a lot of additional material from the parish online: a single page on our website (www.saintclares.co.uk) has all the information and links. For those who cannot access the internet, we will make resources available in the narthex. We may not be physically together, but we remain one body in Christ.

You are all in my prayers each day – pray for me and for the parish too. And let's be sure to keep in touch. God bless and protect 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.

Timetable for our church this week

Sunday 22nd March

The church will be open for private prayer: 8:30am-9:30am and 11:15am-5pm

Mass will be streamed live (visit www.saintclares.co.uk): 10am

Sung Vespers and Benediction will be streamed live: 5:15pm

Stations of the Cross will be available on our YouTube channel from today. Today's set of reflections are from the eyes of Mary, for Mother's Day.

Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday

The church will be open for private prayer: 7am-9:30am and 10:45am-7pm

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration:

7am-8am; 11am-12noon; 5pm-6pm

Mass will be streamed live (visit www.saintclares.co.uk): 10am

A recording of the Mass will be available on our YouTube channel afterwards.

Saturday 28th March

The church will be open for private prayer: 10:45am-6pm

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration:

11am-12noon; 5pm-6pm [please note: no scheduled confessions, but confession is available on request – please contact Fr Andrew.]

Mass will be streamed live (visit www.saintclares.co.uk): 10am

A recording of the Mass will be available on our YouTube channel afterwards.

Sunday 29th March

The church will be open for private prayer: 8:30am-9:30am and 11:15am-5pm

Mass will be streamed live (visit www.saintclares.co.uk): 10am

Sung Vespers and Benediction will be streamed live: 5:15pm

Stations of the Cross: a new set of reflections will be available on our YouTube channel from today.