

People of the Word: Aaron and the Levites

We've heard the story of Moses. Today we look at his brother, **Aaron**, and the **tribe of Levi**, to which they belonged.

Aaron played an important role in helping Moses lead the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, often accompanying his brother on his visits to Pharaoh. In this, like Moses, he acted as a prophet of God. But Aaron is best known as the first High Priest of God's people, the one chosen to sanctify the people and make sacrifices to God. The priests of Israel were descended from Aaron, and later fulfilled their role in the Jerusalem temple. Amongst them was John the Baptist's father, Zechariah.

Aaron was not perfect: whilst Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days, Aaron led the people away from God, teaching them to fashion a golden calf for them to worship (Exodus 32:1-6). Like Moses, Aaron died before the people entered the Promised Land.

Aaron and Moses belong to the tribe of Levi, which was set aside to serve God in a special way. The members of this tribe – the Levites – helped the priests in their duties in the Temple. Unlike the other tribes, they did not inherit a piece of land on which to live, but for their survival relied on the offerings made by the people.

Questions for reflection:

- Aaron's role was to sanctify God's people – to make them holy. Do I use all the means God gives me – e.g. prayer, the sacraments – to become holier?
- Aaron and the priests made sacrifices to God. What sacrifices can I make to the Lord, giving Him gifts of faith and love in my daily life?



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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 158

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 3 of Lent

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 14 th Mar	6pm (vigil)	Third Sunday of Lent	George Love RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 15 th March	9:30am		Fr Bernard Woods RIP	
	6pm		People of the Parish	
Monday	9:15am		St Patrick	Donor's Intention
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm	Trevor Hughes RIP		
Wednesday	9:15am	Steve – Special Intention		
Thursday	9:15am	ST JOSEPH		Special Intention
Friday	12noon	Gladys Worsley RIP		
Saturday 21 st	10am	Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)	Holy Souls	
	6pm (vigil)		People of the Parish	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 22 nd March	9:30am		Robin Day RIP	
	6pm		Patrick O'Donnell RIP	

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Morning Prayer 7:45am Monday-Friday during Lent; sung Vespers and Benediction 3:30pm on Sundays during Lent.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sundays 3pm during Lent.

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: May Wilkinson, Theresa Howarth, Frank Dickox, Rita Morris, Angela Holt, Emily Chibulu, Anne Noblet, Robin Day, Douglas Middlemass, Alice Barker, Florence Hastie, Ronald Wilkinson.

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

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS: Additional measures are now in place in church. Please read carefully the information on the back of the newsletter. Please pray for all those who are ill and all who are isolated as a result of this outbreak.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: 23rd-30th October 2021. Details of the trip are available on sheets in the narthex. Booking forms now available from the parish office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Parishioners who are particularly elderly or frail may request the Sacrament of the Sick. Given that coronavirus precautions may make home visits difficult in the coming weeks, please be proactive in requesting this.

LECTIO DIVINA: Each Tuesday during Lent, an opportunity to pray together this form of meditation. 7:30-8:15pm in the side chapel. All welcome.

CONFESSION DURING LENT: Saturdays 11am-12noon and by appointment. There will be a Reconciliation Service with individual confession on Monday 6th April.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO OUR LADY: Sunday 29th March. This will be marked at all the Sunday Masses and also by a service at 12noon that day. We are also encouraged to make a personal rededication on 25th March. Details next week.

PARISH SECRETARY JOB VACANCY: Part-time paid role (10-12 hours/week) for a secretary / office administrator for the parish. Full details on sheets in the narthex. Please share this with anyone who may be interested. Closing date: 15th April.

LENTEN LUNCHESES: These have been cancelled due to coronavirus precautions.

MESSY CHURCH: Saturday 28th March, 1:30pm-3pm in the hall. Activities, crafts, games and Bible stories for children. All denominations welcome.

CENACOLO COLLECTION: This weekend (14th/15th). Please leave items in the house porchway. **FOOD BANK** collection will be next weekend (21st/22nd).

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: Please return any remaining envelopes as soon as possible.

HOLY WEEK MUSIC PRACTICES: Next practice Wednesday 25th at 6:30pm.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Next Saturday (21st) at Our Lady and St Edward's, open to all who volunteer in the parish. The parish will be able to fund some places – speak to Fr A. More details from Mike Simpson or Brenda Scales, or see poster.

PILATES: Please note, the Saturday Pilates class is currently full. If you would like to join a waiting list for places, please contact Cathy Greenwood or the parish office.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting Sunday 19th April after the evening Mass. The booklet is *Union with God*. This will be available from next weekend.

YEAR OF THE WORD: Metanoia's 'The God who speaks' series continues this Thursday, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's. Poster with full details in the narthex.

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 415; Collection: £956.31; Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat / Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House Porch
Sunday 15 th	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	Holy Communion preparation (3)	Parish Hall
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	3:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	4:30pm	Confirmation preparation (3)	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7:15pm	Parish Council	Presbytery
Monday-Friday	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:45pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	Lectio Divina	Chapel
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Sat / Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 22 nd	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	3pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	3:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

Coronavirus Precautions: please read carefully

- If you are particularly vulnerable to infection due to age, medical treatment (e.g. chemotherapy) or long-term medical condition, or if you have heart or lung problems, you are advised to avoid large parish gatherings and stay at home.
- Please wash your hands regularly and stay at home if you are unwell.
- Holy Communion will only be distributed under one kind (the Host) and may only be received in the hand at this time.
- There will be no sign of peace at Mass.
- The collection will be taken as you leave, to avoid the baskets being passed from person to person.
- There will be no tea or coffee after Mass until further notice, and the Lenten lunches have been cancelled for this year.
- Do not light candles if you have undried sanitiser on your hands. Some sanitisers are highly flammable.