

People of the Word: St John

We've already met the disciples and Apostles of Jesus, but this week we focus on one of the Twelve, **St John**, who has a particularly important role in the New Testament.

John was the youngest of Jesus' Apostles, and is believed to be the only one who did not suffer a martyr's death. He outlived the others, and his writings are some of the last parts of the New Testament to be written. Five of the twenty-seven New Testament books are attributed to John: His Gospel, three letters, and the Book of Revelation.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are sometimes called the 'Synoptic Gospels', meaning that they look at Jesus from a similar standpoint. John's Gospel is quite different: there is less focus on the narrative of Jesus' life and delves more deeply into the mystery of who Jesus really is. It gives us more of an insight into the relationship between Jesus and the Father – the inner life of God. It also contains several miracles (John calls them 'signs') which are not recorded elsewhere, for example, when Jesus turns water into wine, and when He raises Lazarus from the dead. The washing of feet is also only found in John; and after the Last Supper there is a lengthy 'Farewell Discourse' in which Jesus speaks to His disciples about His identity, His mission and God's plan for them. The three letters of St John further deepen and explore this teaching.

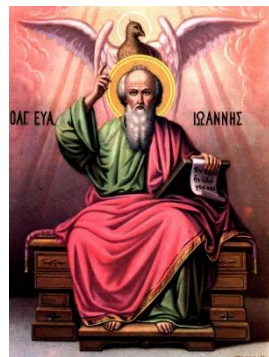
The Book of Revelation is one of the most difficult to understand, filled with strange and sometimes disturbing apocalyptic imagery. We will explore this a little further next week – the last in our series on the People of the Word.

Questions for reflection:

- John is called the 'Beloved Disciple'. Do I believe myself to be loved by God?
- What miracles has Jesus worked for me? What do these 'signs' show me?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 33

Morning 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

At this time it is not possible to attend Mass in person.

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 15 th	9:30am	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Trevor Hughes RIP
Monday	9:30am		People of the Parish
Tuesday	9:30am		Moore & Doran Families
Wednesday	9:30am		Anne Connolly RIP
Thursday	9:30am		Shirley Gilleade RIP
Friday	9:30am		Anthony Burton RIP
Saturday	9:30am	The Presentation of Our Lady	For persecuted Christians
Sunday 22 nd	9:30am	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	For those who have died in the last twelve months

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Bernard Harrison, Martin Malone**, and all who have died recently.

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

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Lyons, John Gorton, Mavis Rogerson, Vincent Gray, Joan Battersby, Anne Connolly, Vera Edwards, Bridget Warburton, Shirley Gilleade, Marie Turner, Frank Hall, Jim Whelan, Anthony Ainsworth, Harold Singleton, Bridget McNulty.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve mankind.

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. Thank you for supporting our parish.

NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: At this time it is not possible to attend Mass in person. The Mass is livestreamed each day at 9:30am. The church remains open each day for private prayer – for opening times and more information, see the back page.

NOVEMBER LIST: A box containing all the names submitted for November is in front of the altar throughout this month; they are remembered each day at Mass.

MASS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: The Mass next Saturday (21st) is offered for persecuted Christians, as part of a series of Masses offered around the country on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

SCHOOL PTFA QUIZ NIGHT: Family friendly quiz this Thursday (19th), 7pm on Zoom. Email stclaresptfa@gmail.com if you'd like to take part. This is a free event.

VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING: An opportunity to catch up after Sunday morning Mass each week, on Zoom – just during the lockdown! Email us if you would like to come. You need to provide your own tea, coffee, biscuits and cake!

METANOIA PROJECT are hosting various online events with opportunities for prayer, worship and growing in faith. Visit www.metanoiaproject.co.uk for more.

CATHOLIC VOICE OF LANCASTER: The November edition of our diocesan newspaper is now available on our website, in the newsletter section.

CAN YOU HELP MAIRA? Aid to the Church in Need are asking the Prime Minister to grant asylum to Maira Shahbaz, a 14-year old Pakistani Christian girl. Maira was raped, forced to marry and convert, and is now threatened with death. Please sign the petition, which can be found online – it only takes a minute. [Click here to sign.](#)

PRO-LIFE CAMPAIGN: A cross-party group of MPs have come together to bring forward a Bill which would clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Please consider writing to your MP to support this Bill. Find out more at www.standupandsmile.org.uk

FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL: There is great need especially for tinned meat, potatoes, spaghetti hoops, cordial and treats for children (mince pies with a date past Christmas, tinned sweets/chocolates, selection boxes, tinned biscuits etc). They also hope to provide 500 toys to children whose families use the food bank. Donations are welcome, but must be made by 27th November. New toys only please.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS CARDS: Because of COVID, the local CAFOD team is offering an ordering and delivery service (within a 2-mile radius of church) for CAFOD Christmas cards and Traidcraft goods. Cards can be viewed online: <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas/charity-christmas-cards>. Please order by e-mail to fairpreston@gmail.com or by phone to 717376 by Sunday 15 November. Payment on delivery by cash or cheque (Payable to Traidcraft plc).

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 15 th	10:15am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Zoom
	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Saturday	12-1pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 22 nd	10:15am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Zoom
	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

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.

Second National Lockdown

As we enter a second national lockdown, which is expected to be much shorter than the first, let's continue to look out for one another, especially for those who are isolated or have particular needs. If you need help, or know someone who does, please contact us – there are many parishioners who are willing to help out. Don't be stuck and don't suffer in silence!

Public Masses are currently suspended, by order of the government. We continue to livestream the Mass each morning at 9:30am.

After the lockdown, everyone who currently has a place at Mass will be able to resume coming to the same Mass without rebooking.

As the rules stand, we will still be able to open the church for private prayer, for limited periods each day – these are shown in the table above.

Please keep an eye on our website: www.saintclares.co.uk for further information and updates.