

People of the Word: Satan

Each week on the newsletter we are telling the whole story of the Bible through the characters we meet. Already we have met God and the first humans; today we meet Satan, who seeks to spoil their perfect relationships.



The book of Genesis describes the first humans' fall from grace. Satan (the devil) in the form of a serpent, tempts Adam and Eve to eat forbidden fruit, promising them that they will become like gods. The sin is pride: they disobey God and try to make themselves His equal. They forget their need of Him. This original sin brings disaster to the world: as a result of the broken relationship between humans and the Lord, suffering and death enter our world, and from this time every human is flawed – we all carry the effects of original sin.

Satan appears in many of the books of the Bible, mainly in the New Testament. He is not a personification of evil, but is a fallen angel whose own pride has turned him away from God. Jesus Himself says, "I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). In the Gospels, we hear of how Satan tempts Jesus in the desert, and in the book of the Apocalypse he is shown as a dragon who wages war against the Church.



Questions for reflection:

- Do I know my need of God, or – like the first humans – do I sometimes try to live as though I could get by without Him? What do I do to try to avoid the sin of pride?
- Seeing how the devil subtly leads Adam and Eve to sin, am I careful to avoid situations, places or even people who lead me away from God?

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 88

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 3 of Advent, Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 14 th Dec	6pm (vigil)	The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	Edmund Starkie RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 15 th Dec	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm		Agnes Moktan RIP	
Monday	10:45am		Requiem	Patricia Barnish RIP
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm	17 th December	Fr John Donlan RIP	
Wednesday	9:15am	18 th December	Holy Souls	
Thursday	9:15am	19 th December	Alexander Lowe RIP	
Friday	12noon	20 th December	Rose Metcalf RIP	
Saturday	8:15am	21 st December	Holy Souls	
	10am		Shirley Gilleade RIP	
Saturday 21 st Dec	6pm (vigil)	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Thanksgiving (TL)	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 22 nd Dec	9:30am		Ints Margaret Mulroy	
	6pm		People of the Parish	

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Bridget McNulty**, whose funeral took place here last week, **Patricia Barnish**, whose Requiem will be on Monday at 10:45am, **Alan Seed** and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am, Saturday 10:30am-12noon, Sunday 4-5pm during Advent.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: During Advent, we celebrate Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 7:45am, and sung Vespers and Benediction on Sundays at 4:30pm.

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

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. These prayers are offered for the protection of human life from conception to natural end.

ST ANTHONY: December wall box donations will go to the Foxtan Centre.

ANNIVERSARIES: Gerald Murphy, Fr John Donlan, Christine Livesey, Edward Riley Rose Metcalf, Thomas Lowe, Teresa Melling, Samuel Teehan, Jim Donnelly, Elizabeth Willacy, Vin Miller.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS: That every country determine to take necessary steps to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

HOME CRIB BLESSING: After evening Mass this Tuesday. Bring your crib from home to be blessed for this Christmas. Followed by wine and mince pies. This is a lovely way to invite the Lord to be part of your family celebrations at home this Christmas.

ADVENT: During this holy season we celebrate morning prayer Monday-Friday, 7:45am and a Holy Hour including sung Vespers (evening prayer) each Sunday, 4-5pm.

MONDAY MASS: Please note, Mass on Monday is at 10:45am, a Requiem for Patricia Barnish. No 9:15am Mass. Mass is also celebrated in the hospital at 5:15pm.

CAR PARKING ON MONDAY: The car park will be closed on Monday until 7:40am. Apologies for any inconvenience to those who wish to attend morning Exposition.

COACH TRIP TO LEEDS: Please hand in your coach money this week. The coach leaves the car park next Saturday at 9am. Mass will be celebrated in the church at 8:15am for anyone who would like to attend, as we will not attend Mass during the trip itself. Bring appropriate clothing. No food is provided, so bring a packed lunch or money to buy food in Leeds city centre. We expect to be back in Preston between 6:30pm and 7pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: See back page, poster in narthex or find the details on our website at www.saintclares.co.uk

CHRISTMAS DRAW: A list of prize winners is on the notice board. Prizes can be collected any morning (except Thursday) from the presbytery.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Donations in memory of a loved one are welcome. Please put their name(s) in an envelope marked 'Christmas flowers'. A list of intentions for prayer will be displayed in church during the Christmas season.

CHURCH CAR PARK: You may have noticed a change in car park signage, which is part of our efforts to ensure that the car park is available for those visiting the church. If you are visiting church or the parish hall at any time you can park in any unmarked space, but please do not park here for any other reason (except school runs) without asking first, as fines are being issued to unauthorised parkers.

PNE SLEEPOVER: Rita would like to thank all those who sponsored her for the sleepover at PNE last month. She raised around £2500 for the Foxton Centre for the homeless – an amazing total! Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

EMAIL FROM ST CLARE'S? If you receive an unexpected email claiming to be from the parish, please check the sender's address and don't open any attachments unless you're sure it's come from us. There have been some scam emails recently.

METANOIA ADVENT TALKS: Thursdays at St Wilfrid's parish centre. 7:30pm. A mini-series for Advent on 'The God who speaks'. See www.metanoiaproject.co.uk

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 453; Collection: £1,158.31; Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 15 th	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:45pm	Baptism Preparation (3)	Chapel
	7:30pm	Journey in Faith Group	Chapel
Tuesday	7:30pm	Home Crib Blessings	Parish Hall
Wednesday	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	9am	Coach trip to Leeds (only for those who have signed up)	Leaves from car park
Sunday	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church

Christmas Mass times

Vigil: Christmas Eve 6pm

Midnight Mass, with carols from 11:30pm

Christmas morning: 10am

Boxing Day: Mass at 10am

With presentation of altar servers' medals

27th-28th December: Mass at 10am

28th-29th December: Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday Mass times as normal

30th-31st December: Mass at 10am

New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass at 12noon



During the Christmas season make some time to **visit the crib**, which will be displayed from the first Mass of Christmas through to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (12th January). The church is open every day for private prayer.