

## People of the Word: Noah

**After the Fall, evil finds a place in the world.** Seeing this, God resolves to wash away all evil from the face of the earth by means of a flood. But He notices the goodness of Noah and tells him to build an ark in which he and others will be saved. Noah, his family, and the animals live on the ark during a flood lasting 40 days, after which Noah sends out a dove, which comes back bearing an olive branch, a sign that the waters are receding. Both dove and branch have therefore become symbols of peace between God and humanity. God establishes the Bible's first Covenant (an agreement sealing a relationship – almost like a marriage) in which He promises never again to destroy the earth in this way. The sign of the covenant is the rainbow. The story of Noah points us to our baptism, in which God washes away original sin and we enter into a covenant – a loving relationship – with Him as our Father.



Noah's story is told in Genesis 6-9, and is soon followed by the story of the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11). Here humans try to reach heaven by building a tower – their pride means that they deny their need of God – the result is division and disunity.

### Questions for reflection:

- Do I live as someone in covenant with God? Do I seek to deepen my relationship with Him throughout the year?
- Do I recognise my need of God, and know that I can only reach heaven by His grace? Or do I try to earn and win salvation and happiness without Him?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 115

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: weekdays after Epiphany

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6pm (vigil)	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	Rodger and Mary Furey RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Mary Melling RIP
Monday	9:15am		Fr Leo Bamber RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Joan Walling RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Anne Connolly RIP
Thursday	9:15am	Eric Bamber RIP	
Friday	12noon	Edmund Starkie RIP	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	George Love RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Damian Kehoe RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Martin Cliff RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

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

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

**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:** January wall box donations will go to local people in need of help.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Annie Rawcliffe, Michael Swift Lois Swarbrick, Jean Hull, Mark Cartmell, Madge Collard, Mary Judge, Cesare Innocenzi, Joan Foster, Derrick Sharpe, Stanley Turpin, Walter Wilson, Carole Thompson, Janusz Cichy, Agnes Ganavan, Nora Jones, Susan Forster.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS JANUARY:** We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** May the Lord bring many blessings to you and to all your loved ones in 2020. Let's pray that it is a happy and holy year for us all, and for our parish.

**THANK YOU:** Fr Andrew and James would like to say a sincere 'thank you' for the many cards, gifts and good wishes received for Christmas. Thanks also for the very generous Christmas offerings. Your support and encouragement (all year round!) is much appreciated and is a big help. Thanks especially for your prayers, which sustain your parish and your priest throughout the year.

**VISITING THE CRIB:** The crib is open for visits until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (12<sup>th</sup> January); the church is open every day. Make some time to visit Bethlehem this Christmas! Come and see the wise men (and their transport!)

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2020:** Young people in school year 6 and above who have not been confirmed are invited to receive this sacrament in June. Preparation begins shortly. Details and registration forms available in the narthex.

**WALSINGHAM DOWRY TOUR:** The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham has been visiting the cathedrals of England and is coming to our mother church in Lancaster, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February. We hope to announce soon details of our parish involvement, but for now, save the dates! The event is followed by a reconsecration of England to our Our Lady in March. More details to follow.

**CENACOLO COLLECTION:** Next weekend (11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>). **FOOD BANK** 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>. Please leave items in the porchway of the presbytery (priest's house).

**LARGE PRINT MASS AND HYMN BOOKS:** A couple of copies of large print versions of the Mass and hymn books are available. Please ask the welcomers.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2020:** On sale now in the narthex. Price £3.50. Please put money in the wallbox marked 'CTS, Books etc'.

**CAREERS DAY IN SCHOOL:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January at St Clare's Primary School. A careers day for the children. If you could represent a particular profession (or know someone who could) please contact school on 787037. Thank you.

**OLSE LADIES' GROUP:** Meeting this Thursday, 8pm at OLSE parish centre. A talk by Margaret Lambert, "Spring Cleaning at Rufford Old Hall". Visitors welcome. £2.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** The annual appeal in aid of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) takes place next weekend.

**RECENT MASS ATTENDANCE AND COLLECTIONS:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (22<sup>nd</sup> December):** At Mass: 476; Collection: £1127.65

**Christmas:** At Mass: 729

**Holy Family (29<sup>th</sup> December):** At Mass: 456; Collection £1110.52

Thank you for your continuing generosity in support of our parish.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
Monday	7:30pm	Journey in Faith	Presbytery
Tuesday-Friday	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	<b>Fabric &amp; Finance Committee</b>	Presbytery
Wednesday	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Saturday	9am	<b>Pilates</b>	Parish Hall
Sat /Sun	At Mass	<b>Cenacolo Collection</b>	House porch
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall

During the Christmas season don't forget to make some time to **visit the crib**, which will be displayed in the side chapel from the first Mass of Christmas through to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (12<sup>th</sup> January). The church is open every day for private prayer.

O come, let us adore Him!



## 2020: what's in the pipeline?

Next month we welcome the **Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham** to our cathedral as part of a national tour, which will be followed by the **Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry** in March. The **Year of the Word** continues, with plenty of opportunities to deepen our love for the Word of God, including opportunities to pray **Lectio Divina** in the parish during Lent. In February the **Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal** will be back in our parish to lead the Day of Renewal (29<sup>th</sup> Feb). Definitely one not to miss! Keep your eyes open for a possible **trip to the North East** in May – details to be announced shortly, God willing! All this alongside the regular rhythm of parish life, centred on the Church's liturgy (**Holy Week** this year falls 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April); the devotional life of the parish reaches its peak with the **40 Hours** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July) and there will be plenty of social and other events too. Don't forget to take your full part in the life of the parish this coming year!