

People of the Word: Abraham (part 1)

The first eleven chapters of the Bible speak about how we got to where we are. We hear of Creation, then of the Fall and its consequences. Then, from chapter 12 of Genesis, something changes: here begins the story of God's plan of salvation.



It begins with one man: Abraham. God calls him to leave his own country and people and set out on a journey for a land God will give him. He promises to make Abraham the father of a great multitude of people, with descendants as many as the stars of heaven. The Lord makes this promise as part of His covenant with Abraham, and it is one reason why today we call Abraham “our father in faith”. But Abraham and his wife Sarah were old, and – fearing she could not have children – Abraham had a son, Ishmael, by his slave girl, Hagar.

But Ishmael was not the fulfilment of God's promise. Abraham was visited by the Lord, manifested as “three men” – a sign of the Holy Trinity – who receive Abraham's hospitality and promise that his wife will have a son. Disbelieving, Sarah laughs at the promise. But God kept His promise.

Questions for reflection:

- Abraham left everything he knew to follow the call of God. What would I be willing to leave behind if God was calling me to take a new path?
- Abraham and Sarah laughed at God's promise of a son, believing it to be impossible. Do I believe that God can do the impossible in my life?

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MASSSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 118

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 11 th	6pm (vigil)	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Damian Kehoe RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 12 th	9:30am		Martin Cliff RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am		Souls who died recently
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Sarah Ann Cottam RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Ronald and Margaret Culshaw RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Thanksgiving
Friday	12noon		St Anthony (Abbot)
Saturday 18 th	10am	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holy Souls
	6pm (vigil)		Joseph Speight RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 19 th	9:30am		Ints of Christine Troger
	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: Martin Cliff, Anne Gray, Gerald Turner, Helena Corbishley, Colin Mullarkey, Hilda Battersby. Phyllis Abram, Ernest Moore, Gerard Robinson, David Creighton, Ethel Ray, Joseph Billington, Gwen Lakeland, Robert Coarey.

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.

VISITING THE CRIB: This weekend is our last chance to visit the crib, which is open until Sunday evening. Come and spend some prayerful time in Bethlehem!

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 is coming to Lancaster, 6th-8th February. We plan to take a coach to the Cathedral on Friday 7th February for a chance to visit the statue and exhibition and attend the evening Mass. The coach will leave at 6pm and return at around 9pm. If you would like to come, please sign up in the narthex. £5/adult, £2.50/child. The event is followed by a rededication of England to our Our Lady in March. More details to follow.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Next meeting on 9th February after the evening Mass. The booklet is *Practising the Presence of God*, based on the life and insights of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. Copies will be available in the coming days.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK: 18th-25th January. Please keep this intention in your prayers. Service for Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton next Sunday (19th) at 3pm at St Anthony's Church on Cadley Causeway. All welcome.

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

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS? Donations are welcome for the Lourdes Prize Bingo, taking place this year on Friday 14th February.

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 17th 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.

CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT: Preston Concert Band perform at Fulwood Methodist Church, 25th January at 7:30pm. Music from films and shows. Tickets: £7.50. See poster.

EDUCATION SERVICE VACANCY: 0.8 post for Lead Education Officer from Easter 2020. Details online at <http://www.lancaster-diocese-education.org.uk>

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

LAST WEEK: At Mass: 455; Collection: £1053.74 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 12 th	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Monday-Friday	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	Journey in Faith	Presbytery
	7:45pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	Parish Council	Presbytery
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:45pm	NCW Penitential	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Sat /Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House porch
Sunday 19 th	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall

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 (see inside for details of the parish coach), 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 (29th 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 5th-12th April); the devotional life of the parish reaches its peak with the **40 Hours** (9th-12th 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!