



## People of the Word: Abraham (part 2)

**After the Fall, the story of salvation begins with Abraham**, our father in faith. God called him to leave his home and move to a land God would give him, and promised many descendants.



Abraham was a man of prayer who, seeing that the city of Sodom was threatened with destruction, interceded with God for it to be saved. Abraham points out to God that there may be a few good people in the city – perhaps 50, perhaps 30, perhaps only 10. God promises Abraham that he will spare those who are righteous (Genesis 18:16-33).



Although Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old and had no children, God kept His promise and blessed them with a son, Isaac (Genesis 21:1-7). Having laughed with incredulity at God's promise, Sarah now laughs with joy at its fulfilment.

There was a further test for Abraham, however. God commands him to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son, on a hill not far from the site of Jerusalem (Genesis 22:1-18). But it is only a test: once it becomes clear that Abraham will do whatever God asks, God stops him from killing his son. Here we see a sign of Jesus, the beloved Son of God, who is sacrificed on a hill near Jerusalem for our salvation.

### Questions for reflection:

- Abraham prayed for people. Do I bring others before God in my prayer? Where in my life can I see that God has answered my prayers?
- Abraham had amazing trust in God. How much do I put my life in His hands?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 125

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

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	6pm (vigil)	<b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Joseph Speight RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Ints of Christine Troger	
	6pm		People of the Parish	
Monday	9:15am			Ron Worden
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm	St Agnes	Special Intention	
Wednesday	9:15am		Anne Connolly RIP	
Thursday	9:15am		Edith Clarke RIP	
Friday	12noon	St Francis de Sales	Holy Souls	
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>The Conversion of St Paul</b>	Holy Souls	
	6pm (vigil)	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Holy Souls	
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm		Holy Souls	

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

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Thursday 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:** Marie Jackson, William Loughran, Vincent Jorge, Jean Davis, Catherine Harrison, Hilda Templeman, John Barbarel, May Walmsley, Agnes Turner, Mary Gregson, Roy Williamson, Theresa Noblett, Katherina Lacey.

**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.

**WALSINGHAM DOWRY TOUR:** The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is coming to Lancaster, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> February. A full timetable for the visit is on the notice boards in the narthex. The parish coach (for those signed up) leaves at 6pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February and will arrive back in Preston at around 9:15pm.

**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.

**MORNING EXPOSITION:** Please note, there will be no Exposition this Friday morning or any morning next week. The church will be open for prayer from 7:30am. The normal morning timetable resumes from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**NCW MASS:** Please note, there will be no 7pm Mass next Saturday.

**CTS BOOK CLUB:** Next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CAR PARK CLEAN UP:** A little team of parishioners will work, weather permitting, to clean up the site next Sunday (26<sup>th</sup>) from 1:30pm. Could you help? Refreshments will be provided! If able, please just come along. Thank you!

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

**FOOD BANK** collection this weekend (18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>). 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 14<sup>th</sup> February.

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

**CAFOD PRE-LENT MEETING:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm in the Padua Room at St Anthony's church. A chance to discover more about and support CAFOD's work.

**OLSE LADIES' GROUP:** Next meeting this Thursday at OLSE Parish Centre, a presentation by Brenda Fox: "Turnpike Roads, Toll Houses and Milestones". Cost £2.

**CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT:** Preston Concert Band perform at Fulwood Methodist Church, 25<sup>th</sup> 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>

**LAST WEEK:** At Mass: 520; Collection: £954.91; SPUC: £288.82 Thank you.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat /Sun	At Mass	<b>Food Bank Collection</b>	House porch
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	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	<b>Marriage Preparation (1)</b>	Parish Hall
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:45pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	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 and see the full timetable on the notice board in the narthex), 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!