

People of the Word: Melchizedek

In the last couple of weeks we have met Abraham, our father in faith, and heard how God blessed him with a son, Isaac, through whom God would grant Abraham many descendants. Before continuing the story with Isaac, today we meet a mysterious figure who meets and blesses Abraham: **Melchizedek**.



Melchizedek is the very first priest to appear in the Bible, in Genesis 14:18-20. He is simply described as “a priest of God Most High”. Other Old Testament priests gain their role by virtue of descent from a priestly line, but no one knows where Melchizedek comes from. Whilst later priests offer animal sacrifices to God, Melchizedek simply brings bread and wine. This is a sign of the priesthood given by Jesus, who calls men not by their ancestry but by His choice; priests today offer bread and wine, which becomes the Lord’s Body and Blood.

Melchizedek is also mentioned in Psalm 109(110), which teaches that the Christ will be a “priest for ever, like Melchizedek of old”. He is also seen as a forerunner of Jesus in Hebrews chapter 7.

In Abraham’s encounter with Melchizedek, the priest blesses Abraham and blesses God for the work He is doing in Abraham’s life. Abraham pays him a tithe of everything – a portion of all he has, offered to God.

Questions for reflection:

- Priests are called to offer gifts to God. What can I offer to the Lord? Do I offer up my struggles and sufferings to God, through Jesus, the true priest?
- Do I bless and thank God for the wonders He does in my life?

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 127

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 25 th	6pm (vigil)	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joan Burton RIP
Sunday 26 th	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Special Intention
Monday	9:15am	St Angela Merici	Company of St Ursula (Lancaster)
Tuesday	7pm	St Thomas Aquinas	Lucy & Albert Fleming RIP
Wednesday	9:15am		Holy Souls
Thursday	9:15am		Holy Souls
Friday	12noon	St John Bosco	Holy Souls
Saturday 1 st Feb	10am	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas)	Holy Souls
	6pm (vigil)		Catherine Harrison RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 2 nd Feb	9:30am		Thanksgiving for prayer and support received
	6pm		People of the Parish

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

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday 10:30am-12noon. No weekday morning Exposition this week.

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: Guy Horton, Winifred Fowler, Margaret Livingstone, Margaret Prince, Jean Mozier, Winifred Green, Elizabeth Worden, Margaret Williamson, William Staples, Elizabeth Moore, Bertha Mills, Agnes Noblet, Agnes Allen, Lily Riley, Bronia Kacperek, Ronald Templeman.

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, 6th-8th 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 7th February and will arrive back in Preston at around 9:15pm.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2020: The deadline for registration forms was last Friday. If you have missed the deadline but are still interested, contact the office.

HOSPITAL MASS: Please note, there will be no hospital Mass this Monday.

MORNING EXPOSITION: Please note, there will be no weekday Exposition this week. The church will be open for prayer from 7:30am. The normal morning timetable resumes from Monday 3rd February.

NCW MASS: Please note, there will be no 7pm Mass this Saturday (25th).

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 are available from the sacristy.

FR LAKELAND'S GRAVE is located at the Ribbleton Avenue end of Preston Cemetery. His headstone is now in place. If you would like to visit and need more precise directions, call in at the cemetery office on Blackpool Road.

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

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

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

YEAR OF THE WORD: Metanoia's 'The God who speaks' series resumes Thursday 6th February, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's. Poster with full details in the narthex.

YEAR OF THE WORD: Saturday 8th February at the Xaverian Centre, a day on 'Liturgy and the Bible'. No charge, but donations welcome. See poster in narthex.

ROSARY SERVICE: Tuesday 4th February, 2pm at Carmel on St Vincent's Road. To pray for expectant mothers and their unborn babies. Speaker: Fr Jim Clarke s.x.

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

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: 487; Collection: £973.46; Crib: 286.34. Thank you.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 26 th	9:30am	Children's liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	1:30pm	Car park clean up (details inside)	Car park
	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
	7:45pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	Marriage Preparation (2)	Parish Hall
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	7:30pm	NCW Liturgy of the Word	Chapel/Narthex
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	8:45am	Pilates	Parish Hall
Sunday 2 nd	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 (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!