

People of the Word: Samuel

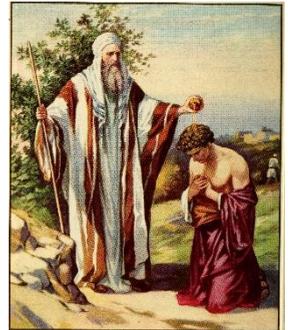
Last week we met Jesse, the father of King David. Before we move on to David himself, today we consider the great prophet who anointed him king: **Samuel**.



Samuel is well known for the story in which he hears God calling him, but thinks it is the old priest, Eli. “Here I am, since you called,” he says. Eli eventually realises it is the Lord calling him, and teaches Samuel to respond, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.” Samuel is a model of one who listens.

He went on to succeed Eli in the priesthood; he was also the last of the Judges who ruled over Israel. As a ruler, he brought peace to the land and travelled around the various cities, hearing cases which required wise judgement.

When the people demanded a king to rule over them, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint Saul, who became the first monarch in Israel’s history. With the age of the kings came the age of the prophets, called to speak on behalf of God, often correcting and admonishing the kings. Samuel was the first to take on this role, and had the duty not only of anointing Saul as king, but also announcing the end of Saul’s reign, in favour of King David. Priest, prophet and ruler of God’s people, Samuel was a truly great figure, and two books of the Old Testament bear his name.



Questions for reflection:

- “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.” What helps me to listen to God’s Word? What makes it harder for me to hear Him speak?
- By baptism we are made priest, prophet and king. How do I live this?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 3 of Easter

Important: the church is closed until further notice. Mass and other services are livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at www.saintclares.co.uk

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 26 th	10am	Third Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Monday	10am		Margaret Moore RIP
Tuesday	10am		Deceased members of the McCormack & Igoe families
Wednesday	10am	St Catherine of Siena	Harold Dawson RIP
Thursday	10am		Kathleen Smith RIP
Friday	10am	St Joseph the Worker	Ints Catherine Richardson
Saturday	10am	St Athanasius	Bob Thomson RIP
Sunday 3 rd May	10am	Fourth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish

A full timetable for this week is published on the back page of the newsletter.

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

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Sung Vespers and Benediction will be streamed live on our YouTube channel on Sunday at 4:30pm.

ROSARY: Prayed after 10am Mass, Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Helena Jackson, Susan Harrison, Margaret Smith, Patricia Josephine Tallat, Marie Wilson, Elizabeth Ketchell, Monica Harrison, Moira Dias.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Supporting your parish financially during the lockdown

Many people have asked how they can contribute to the parish financially at a time when almost all parish income has dried up. If you are still earning and able to contribute, you can save up offertory envelopes until the lockdown ends. Some people have asked for details of how to donate by standing order/BACS. If you contact us directly we can give the details, if you would like to help in this way. Thank you for thinking of us – please only contribute if you are able.

Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

Another week of the lockdown has passed, and this strange way of life is becoming a little more familiar to us, even though we all long for a return to normality. I find myself waking up in the morning and feeling a little bit like it's Groundhog day... again. It's harder to keep track of time and sometimes I have to think in order to remember which day it is. I suspect I'm not alone! All time, however, is an opportunity to be present with God. The great Jesuit spiritual writer Jean Pierre de Caussade speaks of the 'sacrament of the present moment' – each moment, he reminds us, can be a channel of God's presence and His grace.

I'm becoming increasingly aware of a sort of 'virtual parish' which has grown up around our daily livestreaming of Mass. People are joining us from around the diocese and beyond, where their own churches are unable to broadcast the Mass online. This weekend we plan to post some pictures of people watching the Mass in their homes, so we have a better sense of our online community. Please feel free to send us an image if you're happy for it to be shared – we'd love to include you and so make our 'virtual parish' more visible.

Also on our YouTube channel this week there's a new video suggesting some saints that we can call upon during the pandemic, and if you've not yet seen the video James made about the saints at Mass, it's well worth a look. If you have children in our primary school (especially in KS1) you may be aware of Fr Leopold, who helps to teach the children about our faith. He's also thinking of making a video – watch this space. If you don't know who he is, all will be revealed!

Although life feels like it's on pause, we mustn't stand still in our spiritual lives. We're still in the Year of the Word, which is a great opportunity to appreciate more the God who speaks to us in the Bible. To that end, there will be a talk on the Acts of the Apostles, live on our YouTube channel on Tuesday 5th May at 7pm. *Acts* recalls the life of the early Church and is full of wonderful events, teaching and inspiration for us today, but is underappreciated by many. So let's take this opportunity to learn a bit more, as we read this book during the Easter season.

This weekend Gerard and Janice Wilson, regulars at our Saturday evening Mass, are celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary. It's a wonderful milestone, and as a parish we offer them our heartfelt congratulations and prayers, wishing them every blessing in the years ahead.

Thank you all for your continuing support for our parish family, and your ongoing encouragement and prayers for me and James. God bless you! Fr Andrew.

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Full Timetable for the Week

All services listed here are streamed live at

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Sunday 26th April: Third Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday

Mass: 10am

Rosary: 10:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Saturday:

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 10:30am-12noon

Sunday 3rd May: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 5th May: Talk on the Acts of the Apostles, live online at 7pm

Thursday 7th May: May Procession, live online at 1:45pm.

200 Club

The draw for April was made last weekend. The winners were:

1st Prize £152 No. 34 Joe & Mary McCambridge

2nd Prize £ 91 No. 48 Ray & Tina Monk

3rd Prize £ 61 No. 53 Anuradha Gurung