

People of the Word: King David (part 1)

Last week we heard of the great leader and prophet **Samuel**, who anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. But Saul was rejected by the Lord in favour of His chosen one: **David**.



David was the youngest son of Jesse (whom we met a couple of weeks ago). He was a shepherd in Bethlehem, and was out minding the sheep when Samuel came in search of the new king. Not as physically impressive as his brothers, David was still chosen by God, who told Samuel “man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

One of the most famous biblical stories is that of David and Goliath. Although still a youth and of no great size, he took on the giant warrior of the Philistines and won, not by his own strength, but because he put his trust in the Lord. After this, David was hailed as a hero by the people, but was persecuted by Saul, who was jealous of his success.



Despite being a great king, David committed grave sins. He committed adultery with Bathsheba, who became pregnant. To prevent this being discovered, he had Bathsheba's wife, Uriah, murdered. Although David repented of these sins, he suffered greatly as a result of them. Despite this, he ruled over Israel for forty years: seven in Hebron, before establishing Jerusalem as the nation's capital and reigning there.

Questions for reflection:

- Do I look at the appearance of others, or look at the heart, as God does?
- David's battle with Goliath shows that all things are possible with God. In what areas of my life do I need to trust God more, and rely less on myself?

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

Tel: 01772 719604 email: enquiries@saintclares.co.uk

www.saintclares.co.uk Social Media: @StClareFulwood

Lancaster RC Diocesan Trustees Registered – Registered Charity No. 234331

St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs A. Charnley

Tel: 01772 787037 Fax: 01772 787016 email: head@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk

MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 4; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 4 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 3 rd May	10am	Fourth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Monday	10am	The English Martyrs	Ben Hunter RIP
Tuesday	10am		Mary Berry RIP
Wednesday	10am		Les Burns RIP
Thursday	10am		Michael Hampson RIP
Friday	10am		Agnes Bedford RIP
Saturday	10am		Mary & Eddie Sinnott RIP
Sunday 10 th	10am	Fifth 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 **Joan Maxwell** and all who have died recently.

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Rita Medway, Geoffrey Pike, Cliff Jackson, Mary Kate Clague, Les Burns, Barbara McCann, Thomas Lupton, Mary Alice Jackson, Alice Hull.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY: That deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

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. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. Again, contact us if this would be useful to you. Thank you for thinking of us at this time, but please only contribute if you are able.

Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

May is a month of special devotion to Our Lady, who has always watched over and prayed for her children on earth. During this time of continued suffering, let's entrust our cares to her in prayer. She is interceding for us!

Over the last few days you may have seen the video 'Father Leopold on lockdown', made for the children of our parish. It's been lovely to receive messages in response not only from parents, but in many cases from the children themselves, and it's good to know that they still feel a connection with our parish community even when they can't come to church (or, in most cases, to school). This week some of the children will be taking a leading role in our annual May Procession. Some children have recorded prayers and readings which will be played during the livestream, and others are involved in decorating the statue of Our Lady. You can take part too – it takes place on Thursday at 1:45pm and will be live on our YouTube channel. It will be good to unite in prayer at this time, in honour of Mary.

Also this week there is a chance to learn more about the Acts of the Apostles, a wonderful if perhaps neglected book of the New Testament. *Acts* recounts the story of the early Church, and is read at Mass throughout the Easter season, but it's rare that we get opportunities to delve a little more deeply into its story and its significance for us. So I'm doing a talk live on our channel this Tuesday at 7pm. Since it's live, you'll be able to send in questions, which I'll attempt to answer! For those who can't join then, you will be able to view it later, if you wish.

We've all been touched by stories we hear of people caring for others during the lockdown, and I know that wonderful things are happening all over the parish: acts of kindness and concern for others. As always, if you know anyone in need whom we may be able to help, please let us know.

Last weekend we posted some pictures of our 'virtual parish' on our website. If you look at them on a large screen (rather than a mobile) they form a grid which fills more or less the whole screen, and shows the variety of people joining us for Mass. I found it very moving to see them and to realise how the Mass continues to touch people in different ways. It was also lovely to see some of you, as you can see me and James each day! If anyone wants to add a picture to the collection, please just send it to us. We'd love to include you.

As strange as this time is, it's not only the time of lockdown; it's also the time of Easter, and we continue to live these days in the company of the risen Lord. May He bless you and your families, keeping everyone safe and close to Him. You are all in my thoughts and prayers each day. God bless you all! 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 3rd May: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday (and see additional events, below)

Mass: 10am

Rosary: 10:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Saturday:

Mass: 10am

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

Sunday 10th May: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Additional Events this Week

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

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

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 21st May: The Ascension of the Lord

22nd-30th May: Novena to the Holy Spirit

Sunday 31st May: Pentecost