

People of the Word: King David (part 2)

Last week we met king **David**, the great but flawed Old Testament king who led Israel for 40 years. It was promised that the Messiah would come from his descendants, so David's name stands as a sign of hope of God's salvation.



King David is also credited with writing many of the psalms, to which we turn our attention today. This is why he is often depicted holding a harp, singing psalms to God. There are 150 psalms, hymns addressed to God in which we praise Him, thank Him, seek His help, lament our sorrows, ask His forgiveness, all using words which He Himself has inspired. These sacred texts are sometimes called 'the Church's prayer book', because they are a sort of staple diet of Christian prayer. Our Lord Himself regularly prayed the psalms: in the synagogue, as part of His daily prayers, after the Last Supper, amongst other occasions. So when we pray these texts, we are united with Him in His prayer in a special way.



We usually hear an extract from one of the psalms after the first reading at Mass, so we are very familiar with many of these texts. They also form the basis of the Liturgy of the Hours (prayer for different times of day used in religious houses, by priests and many lay people). In the parish we pray Vespers (Evening Prayer) every Sunday during Eastertide at 4:30pm. Whatever situation we find ourselves in: thanksgiving, anxiety, sickness, needing forgiveness, strong sense of God's presence... there is a psalm for us! Why not have a look through them and find one that you can pray from your heart in this time?

Questions for reflection:

- Do I turn to God in every situation: thanksgiving, sorrow, worry etc.?
- What role do the psalms play in my prayer?

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 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 5 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 10 th May	10am	Fifth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Monday	10am		Sr Beatrice – Diamond Jubilee
Tuesday	10am		Mary Harrison RIP
Wednesday	10am	Our Lady of Fatima	Mary-Alice Kelly (ints)
Thursday	10am	St Matthias	Peter McAleese RIP
Friday	10am		Mrs Marie Hinchliffe – 100 th birthday
Saturday	10am	St Simon Stock	Private Intention (AS)
Sunday 17 th	10am	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Norman and Gwen Hibbert – 60 th Wedding

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Joan Maxwell, Francis Harrison, Margaret Woodruff, Pilar Caton** 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: Edna Kiely, Philip Baker, Rosalia Zimny.

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,

I hope you are all keeping well, and that you and your loved ones are staying safe and coping with all the restrictions the lockdown has placed on us. Several weeks in, the isolation, continuing uncertainty and worries about the future all still weigh upon us; let's try to stay strong and keep going, always supporting one another in prayer and in any practical ways which are possible and safe.

We've had a lot of positive comments on the May Procession; thank you! It was great that children and staff from our school could take such an active role. If you haven't yet seen it, take a look – it's appropriate viewing for this month dedicated to Our Lady. It's also been lovely to receive many messages from children and their families about Fr Leopold's video – I will pass on your thanks to him! Hopefully it helps the children of our parish to feel a connection with their church.

Thanks also for your positive feedback about the talk on the Acts of the Apostles last week. It was great that so many people 'came' for the event. Ongoing learning about our faith should be a part of all our lives – there is always more to discover! I am open to suggestions for future talks, particularly with a focus on Scripture, as we continue the Year of the Word.

We are all eagerly awaiting the Prime Minister's address this weekend, which we hope will give some indication of the next steps (and perhaps timescale) for easing the lockdown restrictions. Undoubtedly it will be a long road, and change will be slow. We have been working here to try to prepare for when we can begin to reopen the church, sourcing appropriate cleaning materials and working on plans for social distancing within the church building. We will need a lot of patience in the time ahead – changes will be slow, the reopening will be gradual, and it will be a long time yet before we get back to what we recognise as normal parish life. When the changes come, however small they are, let's be grateful for them, having been deprived of so much over the past few weeks. It's always better to count our blessings than to regret the things we can't do.

On Friday, as we celebrated the 75th anniversary of V.E. Day, it was lovely to see some photographs of the parish celebrations for the 50th. Thank you to Rosa Malloy, who sent in the pictures and her account of the day. You can see them all on our website. I confess that there were many faces I didn't recognise, but some which I did. One or two of you have changed very little in the last 25 years!

Please be assured that every day you are all in my thoughts and prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. The Lord remains close to you in so many ways. May you always feel His presence with you. God bless, 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 10th May: Fifth 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 17th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 21st May: The Ascension of the Lord

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

Sunday 31st May: Pentecost Sunday