

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

Last week we met David's son, Solomon, who is famed for his wisdom: so much so, in fact, that our Lord makes reference to it in the Gospel (Matthew 12:42). Today we briefly explore the books of the Bible known as the 'Wisdom literature', some of which bear Solomon's name, though most probably date from much later.



The **Book of Proverbs** is a collection of sayings, many of them not explicitly connected with faith, which provide guidance on how to live. Underlying them all, however, is the conviction that all wisdom comes from the Lord. **Ecclesiastes** (or **Qoheleth**) includes the famous passage, "There is a time to be born and a time to die". The author wonders what life is all about, struggling to find meaning in the constant grind of life, though he knows God to be our creator and our final destiny. **Song of Songs** is



a collection of love songs celebrating love between a man and a woman. It is also understood as a kind of allegory, expressing the love between God and humanity. **The Book of Wisdom** includes some of the clearest Old Testament teaching on eternal life, a meditation on divine Wisdom and its role in creation, and a reflection on the Exodus story. **Ecclesiasticus** (or **Ben Sirach**) is the fruit of the author's lifelong search for wisdom, noting some of the qualities needed for wisdom, and the rewards it brings.

The Wisdom books (which also include the **Book of Job** – see next week) invite us to discover wisdom and live by it, receiving this inspiration from God, who is all-wise.

### Questions for reflection:

- What does 'wisdom' mean in my life? Do I try to be wise in all I do?
- Knowing that all wisdom ultimately comes from God, how do I allow Him to guide me in the big and small decisions of my life?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: Week 7 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](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	Ruby Wedding
Monday	10am	St Bede	People of the Parish
Tuesday	10am	St Philip Neri	Ann Consiglio RIP
Wednesday	10am	<b>St Augustine of Canterbury</b>	Kath Smith RIP
Thursday	10am		Joan Maxwell RIP
Friday	10am		Edgar Bennett RIP
Saturday	10am		Romeo Pereira RIP
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10am	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	People of the Parish

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Bishop Vincent Malone, Lilian McGuire, Patrick Hoyle, Vivian Ball** 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:** Constance McCann, Margaret Cowley, Thomas Thompson, Maureen Middlemiss, Jim Murtagh, Marion Smart, Mary Josephine O'Neil, Anna Hall, Michael Lappin, Hilda McNeela, Eileen Mundy.

**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,

On Thursday we celebrated the beautiful feast of the Ascension of the Lord and so entered into the last part of Eastertide. In these final days of the season we are making our **Pentecost Novena**, asking the Holy Spirit to renew His gifts in our lives. We pray this each morning after 10am Mass, and the prayers can be downloaded from our website. Even if you missed the start, you can still join in!

Next Saturday (30<sup>th</sup> May) we have an online **Day of Recollection** in preparation for Pentecost. Live on our YouTube channel, beginning with 10am Mass, it will include times of prayer, talks, and some reflections and testimonies from parishioners. If you want to contribute a short video sharing how the Holy Spirit works in your life, please send it to us no later than Thursday. The full timetable for the day (or part of the day) why not create a special place in your home to use for your prayer?

Today marks five years since **Pope Francis gave us *Laudato si'***, his teaching on our Christian care of God's creation. He reminds us that, as believers, we have even more reason to care for our planet: we do so for love of our neighbour (both now and in future generations) and out of love for God, who created this world as a gift to us. The Holy Father explores the role that creation plays in our spirituality, finding many references in Scripture and in Tradition. Indeed, the document's name is taken from the opening words of St Francis' famous *Canticle of the Creatures* (the prayer praising God for 'Brother Sun' and 'Sister Moon').

This weekend we are promoting **two requests from CAFOD** to alleviate the suffering caused by the pandemic. Firstly, a request for support from anyone able to make a donation to CAFOD's emergency coronavirus appeal (you can donate online: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>). Secondly, CAFOD have organised a petition asking the government to take measures to ensure that the most vulnerable nations of our world are not forgotten during the crisis. It calls for alleviation of debt, sharing of any medical breakthroughs and long-term planning which considers the poorest nations. You can sign here: <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>

During the month of May the Holy Father has requested that we pray the Rosary for an end to the pandemic. We do so every weekday after 10am Mass. Next Sunday (Pentecost) we are invited to take part in a **Rosary Rally** happening across England, Scotland and Wales. We will livestream the Glorious Mysteries at 5pm next Sunday, just after Vespers. A busy weekend! Wishing you and your families every blessing. You all remain in my prayers each day. 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

Services streamed live: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Seventh 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 followed by Pentecost Novena, then Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

### Saturday: Day of Recollection – see timetable below

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Pentecost Sunday

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

## Pentecost Day of Recollection – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

10am	Mass, followed by final day of Pentecost Novena
10:45am	First Talk: The Holy Spirit in Scripture
Followed by	Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Regina Caeli
12:05pm	Break
1:45pm	Rosary – Glorious Mysteries
2pm	Sharing from our parish and online community
3:30pm	Second Talk: The Holy Spirit at work in our lives
Followed by	Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
4:30pm	Vespers and Office of Readings for Pentecost, beginning with the singing of the Pentecost hymn <i>Veni Creator Spiritus</i>

Resources for prayer will be available to download from [www.saintclares.co.uk](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)