

People of the Word: Nebuchadnezzar

King Nebuchadnezzar II is not a hero of the story of God's people. Ruler of Babylon 605-562BC, he was responsible for the deportation of large numbers of God's people to Babylon in the period known as the 'Exile' or 'Babylonian Captivity', which lasted 587-538BC.



The prophet **Jeremiah**, whom we met last week, foresaw the threat from Nebuchadnezzar and tried to persuade the king of Judah to submit to him. Jeremiah interpreted the threat as a chastisement from God, and knew that resisting it would bring greater suffering. The deportation came in several waves: in 597BC Babylon deported King Jehoiachin, members of the military and craftsmen (2 Kings 24:15-16); the second wave in 587BC took many survivors from Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:11); at this point Jerusalem was devastated by a siege and the Temple was destroyed; a third wave, in 582BC, is reported in Jeremiah 52:30.



These events had a profound effect on God's people. The Exile gave them a stronger sense of longing for home, for the Temple, for the presence of God. Many of the psalms express this longing for God's house and the land He gave them, perhaps most famously Psalm 137(138): "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Sion... If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither".

Nebuchadnezzar also features in the book of Daniel, which tells of young Jewish men in exile and working in his court (Daniel 1-4).

Questions for reflection:

- How have I experienced a longing for the Lord and His house, especially during lockdown?
- Do I long for my true home, heaven, and for the vision of God face-to-face?

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 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 14

Mass is 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

See next page for information on attending Mass in the church.

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 5 th July	10am	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Monday	10am		Donor's Intention
Tuesday	10am		Ronald and Margaret Culshaw RIP
Wednesday	10am		Nora Stanton RIP
Thursday	10am		Bernard Keaveny RIP
Friday	10am		Kathleen Heatley
Saturday	10am	St Benedict	Robert Aston RIP
Sunday 12 th July	10am	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Abid Behranwala RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Canon Frank Cookson, Howard Southworth**, and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: on request. Contact Fr Andrew to arrange.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS: Sung Vespers and Benediction Sunday 4:30pm in church (details on next page) and live on our YouTube channel.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Barnes, Tim Duffy, Joan Craven, Tim Buckley, Bernard Keaveny.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Supporting your parish financially

To avoid use of cash, it is better, if possible, to support the parish using standing order/BACS. Contact us directly for the details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. If you have been saving offertory envelopes, these may be pushed through the presbytery letterbox or handed in at the end of Mass, if you are able to attend at this time. Thank you for your support for our parish.

Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

This weekend, for the first time in over 100 days, we have the opportunity to gather again for Mass. I know that many people are still shielding or unable to come for other reasons, and it will be a very long journey back to normal parish life, but let's all take this an encouraging sign of hope. For me personally, it will be very moving and joyful to see your faces back in the benches again! Please remember, you can only attend Mass by prior arrangement at this time.

We will continue to do what we can to look after everyone: those able to come to Mass and those who remain at home. That means continuing with much of our online work as well as services and events at which people can be physically present. We will try our best to be there for everyone.

I hope to see many of you again before too long. You all remain in my prayers and often in my thoughts. God bless, Fr Andrew.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND MASS: Please contact us (preferably by email – if you don't use email, please phone us) and let us know the following information:

- Your name (and, if you are not using email, a phone number)
- The day(s) when you would be able to attend. If at the weekend, please let us know morning/evening. Monday-Friday Mass will continue to be at 10am.
- How many people from your household/support bubble will attend (you will sit together at Mass, so it's vital we know how many are in your group).
- If you are willing to act as a steward at the Mass, please include this in your email. You must be in good health and under 70 years of age, and the role involves helping to wipe down benches etc. after the Mass has ended.

You will receive an email giving a date and time when we will be able to welcome you to Mass. There is still no obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday at this time.

CONFESSIONS are now available by request/appointment. Contact Fr Andrew.

EXPLORING PHILIPPIANS: Continues on Tuesday at 7:30pm, on Zoom. This week explore Chapter 2 of St Paul's letter to the Philippians, with some input from Fr Andrew and opportunities to share. Please email us for the link. If you missed the first session, the talk and some discussion are now available to view on our YouTube.

PRIVATE PRAYER: We continue to open for a period each day. Please note, on changes in times at the weekends – details on the back page.

SUNG VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: You are welcome to attend, without a booking, on Sunday at 4:30pm, subject to space being available in church. Please note: stewards will register who is present, and the congregation may not sing.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 5 th	3pm-4pm	Church open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction (details on page 3 of newsletter)	Church and YouTube
Mon-Fri	4:30pm-6:30pm	Church open for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	5pm-6pm	Adoration livestreamed	YouTube
Tuesday	7:30pm	Exploring Philippians: Chapter 2	Zoom
Saturday	12noon-1pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Sunday 12 th	3pm-4pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction (details on page 3 of newsletter)	Church and YouTube

All events marked **'YouTube'** are streamed live on our channel:

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

Events marked **'Zoom'** are also online only; please contact us if you want to join.

USING ZOOM: Several parish online events will take place on Zoom, to allow for more interactivity. All you need is a phone/PC/tablet with a webcam. It is very easy to set up and use. You don't need an account and it's free. All you need is a link, which we will send by email if you ask to come to an event. Give it a try!

MAILING LIST: We can post out the parish newsletter or arrange delivery for those who don't have an internet connection and have produced DVDs of some of our videos, including a Mass. If you know anyone who's interested, contact us.

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.