

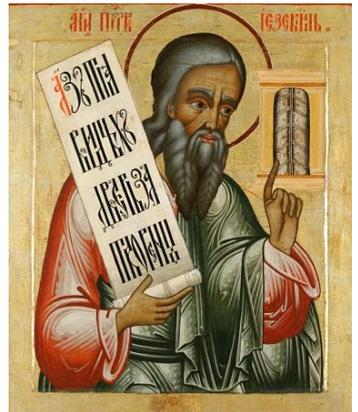
People of the Word: Ezekiel

Over the last couple of weeks we have been exploring some of the events and characters associated with the Exile, a period in the 6th century BC which many Jews were taken against their will to Babylon. Today we meet one of the most active prophets of that period: **Ezekiel**. With Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel, he is one of the four major prophets.



Ezekiel was probably taken into exile in 597BC, and around three years later received his prophetic call from God. He became prominent in the exiled community and people would turn to him for guidance from the Lord. He warned people to repent and foresaw the destruction of the Temple in 587BC.

The most famous passages of Ezekiel's book are his visions. There is a very well-known passage in which he sees dry bones filling a valley, and calls on the Lord's Spirit to restore them to life (Ezekiel 37). He also had a vision of four mysterious winged creatures around the throne of God: a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle: these became symbols of the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.



In the midst of exile, Ezekiel offered hope: the promise of the dry bones restored to life is one example. Elsewhere he prophesied that God would pour clean water over the people to cleanse and restore them, giving them a new heart and a new spirit. Here we see a prophecy of the sacrament of baptism, in which we are cleansed and given grace to live as followers of Jesus.

Questions for reflection:

- What is dry and lifeless in me? What grace do I need from God at this time?
- How do I nurture the grace of my baptism?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 4; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 16

10am 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 19 th July	Vigil Mass	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Donor's Intention
	10am		Fr Michael Lakeland RIP
	Evening		People of the Parish
Monday	10am		Teresa & Jim Cunniff RIP
Tuesday	10am		Pauline Ashcroft RIP
Wednesday	10am	St Mary Magdalen	Barbara Webb RIP
Thursday	10am	St Bridget	Ints Sophie and Daisy
Friday	10am	Martyrs of Cumbria	St Clare's school: staff and governors
Saturday	10am	St James	Special Intention
Sunday 26 th July	Vigil Mass	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
	10am		Golden Wedding (Calvey)
	Evening		Fred Burgess RIP

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Howard Southworth**, whose funeral took place last week, **Canon Frank Cookson**, and all who have died recently.

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Molly Durrant, Catherine Gallagher, Jerzy Wisniewski, Michael McDermott, Pauline Ashcroft, Alice Lakeland, Neil Prince, Marion Lowe, Jack Burton, Lilian Cherry, Kathleen Earley.

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.

ATTENDING MASS: Wherever possible, please decide on a **regular day/time** when you would like to attend Mass then contact us to see what's possible. We will get contact you to let you know when you can come. One-off attendance may be possible but should generally be reserved for special occasions/when the Mass is being offered for your intention. Please only come to Mass if you have received confirmation that we have sufficient space.

If you are **planning to return to Mass at any point before September** it would really help us to plan if you can let us know this week. Please follow the instructions below and also let us know the date you hope to start coming back.

To arrange to come to 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).

There is still no obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday at this time.

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

PRIVATE PRAYER: Please note the change in opening hours. Monday-Friday the church will be open 5pm-6pm, for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

VIRTUAL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: The diocese is hosting a virtual Lourdes pilgrimage, beginning this Friday. All events online. See back page for full timetable.

EXPLORING PHILIPPIANS: Final session on Tuesday at 7:30pm, on Zoom. This week explore Chapter 4 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 earlier sessions, the talk and some discussion are now available to view on YouTube.

SUNG VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: From this Sunday Vespers will be online only, beginning at 4:30pm. The church is open for private prayer on Sundays 3pm-4pm.

FACE COVERINGS: A parishioner is willing to make washable face coverings for any vulnerable members of the parish who are in need of these, free of charge. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

JOSNA RAISING MONEY FOR YEMEN: Josna is a young parishioner moved by the dire situation in Yemen. She and others are cycling nearly 4000 miles (the distance from UK to Yemen) to raise money. If you can help with the cycling or with sponsorship, please visit <https://www.strava.com/clubs/yemen-3873> for details.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 19 th	3pm-4pm	Church open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	YouTube
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Tuesday	7:30pm	Exploring Philippians: Chapter 4	Zoom
Saturday	12noon-1pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Sunday 26 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	YouTube

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

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

Lancaster Diocese Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020

All these events are online – visit www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk to take part.

Friday 24th July 6pm: Welcome and Introduction (video) – Bishop Paul

Saturday 25th July 3pm: Opening Mass – Bishop Paul (live from the Cathedral)

5pm: Way of the Cross (video) – Philip Wrigley (seminarian)

Sunday 26th July 3pm: Testimonies & Messages (video) - Pilgrimage Team/Pilgrims

4pm: Mass (Live from the Grotto in Lourdes)

Monday 27th July 11am: Grotto Mass – Fr Peter Sayer (Live from Lancaster)

2pm: Rosary (Live from the Sanctuaries, Lourdes)

Tuesday 28th July 10am: Mass for the Sick – Fr Philip Connor (Live from Lancaster)

7pm: Holy Hour - Fr John Paul Evans. (Live from the Cathedral)

Wednesday 29th July 12noon: Mass for Vocations – Fr John Moriarty (Live)

3pm: Youth video: 'Looking forward to Lourdes 2021' Jack Regan - Director of Youth

9pm: Marian Procession & Rosary (video)

Thursday 30th July 11am: Mass of Farewell – Bishop Paul (Live from Cathedral)

1pm: Thank you & looking forward to Lourdes 2021 (video) 1pm – Linda Wisdom
(Director of Operations)

Saturday 1st August 1pm: 'Photo Memories of Lancaster in Lourdes' (video)

Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of our diocese, pray for us.