

## People of the Word: The Minor Prophets

We've recently met the four major prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. There are also 12 'minor prophets', whom we briefly explore today.



**Hosea** speaks of Israel's relationship with the Lord like that of a wife to her husband, and calls people to faithfulness. He also sees Israel as a child, loved by God. **Joel** includes important prophecies about the 'Day of the Lord' when God will judge the world. **Amos**, a shepherd called to be a prophet, also speaks of this and warns his prosperous society of impending doom. **Obadiah**, the shortest of the prophetic books, highlights the sins of Israel's neighbour, Edom. **Jonah** was famously swallowed by a whale. He preached repentance to the great city Nineveh and the people responded, from the king to the least of the citizens, thereby averting disaster. Jonah, like many others, was a reluctant prophet who tried to escape his vocation, but without success. **Micah** also offers strong warnings, especially to Samaria, and denounces the insincere sacrifices offered to God by so many. **Nahum** writes about the destruction of Nineveh, a great enemy of Israel. **Habbakuk** speaks of the mystery of unjust suffering and also of the Lord's power over creation. **Zephaniah** is another prophet to speak widely about the Day of the Lord. **Haggai** is the first prophet ministering after the Exile. He stresses the importance of rebuilding the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem. **Zechariah** adds to this the importance of the king and the high priest as their roles are restored. **Malachi**, the last book of the Old Testament in canonical order, expresses the hope of the Lord's coming and foresees a figure like Elijah who will come before Him. Here we see a prophecy of the coming of Jesus and John the Baptist, who fulfil's Elijah's role.

### Questions for reflection:

- These prophets spoke out bravely for God even in the face of opposition. What makes it hard for me to speak about my faith?
- Do I ever resist my calling from the Lord, as some of the prophets did?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 17**

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](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)

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

| Date                             | Time       | Occasion                                       | Intention/Details               |
|----------------------------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>26 <sup>th</sup> July  | Vigil Mass | <b>Seventeenth Sunday<br/>in Ordinary Time</b> | People of the Parish            |
|                                  | 10am       |  | Golden Wedding (Calvey)         |
|                                  | Evening    |  | Freda Burgess RIP               |
| Monday                           | 10am       |  | Winifred Holman RIP             |
| Tuesday                          | 10am       |  | Ints Theresa Scull              |
| Wednesday                        | 10am       | St Martha                                      | Doreen Dilworth RIP             |
| Thursday                         | 10am       |  | Terry Entwistle RIP             |
| Friday                           | 10am       | St Ignatius of Loyola                          | Theresa and<br>John Topping RIP |
| Saturday                         | 10am       | St Alphonsus Liguori                           | John Mitchell RIP               |
| Sunday<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> August | Vigil Mass | <b>Eighteenth Sunday<br/>in Ordinary Time</b>  | Holleran and Hodges<br>families |
|                                  | 10am       |  | Helen Humphreys RIP             |
|                                  | Evening    |  | People of the Parish            |

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for all who have died recently.

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

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Richardson, Helena Davies, Margaret Harrison, Margaret Edith Fox, Andrew Bhatti, Doreen Dilworth, Cyril Hall, Olive Dunn.

**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. Please only come to Mass if you have received confirmation that we have sufficient space.

**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.

**WEARING FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH:** Face masks are not obligatory in the church, but the government encourages their use in all indoor public places where it is practical. You are very welcome to use a face covering if you wish.

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

**PRIVATE PRAYER:** The church is open for one hour each day for private prayer. The full opening times can be found on the back of the newsletter.

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

**EXPLORING PHILIPPIANS:** This series of sessions exploring the four chapters of St Paul's beautiful letter to the Philippians was recorded on Zoom with the participation of parishioners and members of our online community. All four sessions are now available on YouTube (see the 'Year of the Word' playlist).

**SUNG VESPERS AND BENEDICTION:** Celebrated online only, on Sundays, beginning at 4:30pm. The church is open for private prayer on Sundays 3pm-4pm.

**FACE COVERINGS AVAILABLE:** A parishioner is willing to make washable face coverings for any 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.

**MAILING LIST:** The newsletter and Sunday homily can be posted out to parishioners who do not have access to the internet. If you know of someone who would appreciate this, please let us know and we will arrange it.

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

| Day                     | Time       | What?  | Where?             |
|-------------------------|------------|--|--------------------|
| Every day               | Anytime    | <b>Food Bank Collection</b>                                    | House Porch        |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> | 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 |
| Monday                  | 7:30pm     | <b>Finance and Fabric Committee</b>                            | Zoom               |
| Tuesday                 | 7:30pm     | <b>Parish Pastoral Council</b>                                 | Zoom               |
| Saturday                | 12noon-1pm | Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | Church and YouTube |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 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

In place of the normal Lourdes pilgrimage, which usually takes place at this time of year, a virtual pilgrimage to Our Lady's shrine. All these events are online – visit [www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk](http://www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk) to take part.

**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.