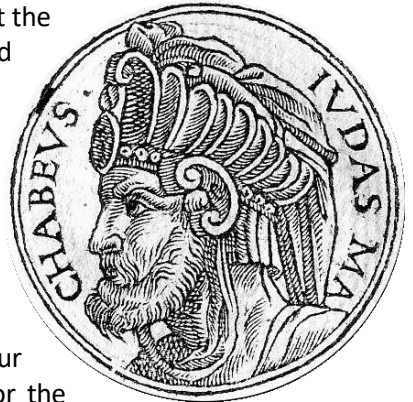


People of the Word: Judas Maccabeus

The Old Testament recounts many sufferings of God's people, most notably the slavery in Egypt and the Exile. In the second century before time of our Lord, **Judas Maccabeus** and his brothers fought a heroic struggle against the enemies of God's people in another time of great suffering. The story is recounted in the two books of the Maccabees.



Judas led the people of Israel as they fought against the Syrians, who desecrated the Temple and persecuted the Jews. The story tells of the heroic faithfulness of some of God's people, who did not give up their faith despite great sufferings and even the threat of death. The books of the Maccabees also emphasise how God helped and sustained His people through their suffering.



The Second Book of the Maccabees contains some important doctrines and practices, including our belief in the resurrection of the body, prayers for the dead and the intercession of the saints. In 2 Maccabees 12:38-45 Judas makes sacrifices for those who have died in battle, in much the same way as we pray for and offer the sacrifice of the Mass for those who have gone before us. The book also tells us of the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple after its desecration (2 Maccabees 10:1-8), a feast still celebrated each year a century and a half later, at the time of our Lord.

Questions for reflection:

- How easy or difficult is it for me to remain faithful to God in times of suffering or opposition to my faith?
- Do I remember to pray for those who have died?

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 18

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 2 nd August	Vigil Mass	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Holleran and Hodges families
	10am		Helen Humphreys RIP
	Evening		People of the Parish
Monday	10am		For Kate (sick)
Tuesday	10am	St John Vianney	Mary Bamber RIP
Wednesday	10am		Sr Maureen – jubilee
Thursday	10am	Transfiguration of the Lord	Mariyakutty Mathew RIP
Friday	10am	Lancaster Martyrs	Special Intention (Jobin)
Saturday	10am	St Dominic	Ruth Cross RIP
Sunday 9 th August	Vigil Mass	St Clare, patroness of our parish	Mary & Eddie Sinnott RIP
	10am		William Hamilton 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: Jeff Hodson, Lily Robinson, Jean Laking, John Wilson, Giovanna Ghiselli, Gerry O'Neil, Margaret Eaton.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: We pray for those who live and work from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

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.

WEARING FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH: From next Saturday, 8th August, the law will require that face coverings must be worn in church. If you are attending Mass or visiting for private prayer from this date please bring a face covering with you. They should cover the mouth and nose and may be made of any cloth; they do not need to be surgical or medical masks.

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.

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.

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.

FOOD BANK: Non-perishable items may be left on the presbytery porch at any time. Please do not bring anything frozen or which needs to be kept in the fridge, nor any fresh fruit, vegetables or dairy products. Thank you for your generosity.

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	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 2 nd	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
Saturday	12noon-1pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Sunday 9 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>

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.

A prayer for our parish

Next Sunday we will celebrate St Clare's feast day (transferred in our church from 11th August). Ahead of her feast, let's ask St Clare to intercede for our parish and for all the members of our community. At this difficult and uncertain time for us all, we are in great need of prayer. You can use the parish prayer to St Clare:

St Clare, who chose a life of poverty,
prayer and humble service,
watch over this parish which bears your name.
Bless and protect our community
and intercede for us,
that we may come closer to Jesus
and grow in His likeness,
who lives and reigns
for ever and ever. Amen.

St Clare, pray for us.

