

People of the Word: Angels and Archangels

In our journey through Scripture we find ourselves at the border of the Old and New Testaments. Before we begin to explore the New Testament characters, today we consider the role of God's messengers who appear throughout Scripture: **the angels**.



Angels are spiritual beings who worship God in heaven (e.g. Isaiah 6:1-3) yet are also charged with acting for Him on earth. The word 'angel' literally means 'messenger'. We find them, for example, in the story of Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28:12) climbing between heaven and earth. Jesus Himself speaks of each child of God having an angel in heaven – our guardian angels (Matthew 18:10). In the Old Testament a visit from 'the angel of the Lord' is considered as a visit from God Himself (e.g. Genesis 16:7, Exodus 3:2, which speaks of the appearance of God to Moses at the burning bush).



The Bible names three archangels: **Raphael**, whose name means 'healing of God' and who cures Tobit's blindness (Tobit 11-12); **Gabriel**, who brings important messages (Daniel 8:16, 9:21; he also foretells the birth of John the Baptist and of the Lord in Luke 1:5-28); and **Michael**, who defeats evil and overcomes the fallen angel Satan (Daniel 12:1, Revelation 12:7-12). These three point us to the God who heals, who reveals Himself, and who conquers all evil for our salvation.

Questions for reflection:

- How open am I to the messengers of God – angelic and human?
- Do I trust that I have a guardian angel, who protects and leads me and is a sign of the Lord's personal care and love for me?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 19

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 9 th August	Vigil Mass	St Clare, patroness of our parish	Mary & Eddie Sinnott RIP
	10am		William Hamilton RIP
	Evening		People of the Parish
Monday	10am	St Lawrence	Tony Culshaw RIP
Tuesday	10am		John McCormack RIP
Wednesday	10am		Andrew Walsh RIP
Thursday	10am		Patrick Lavelle RIP
Friday	10am	St Maximilian Kolbe	Frank and Margaret Dickox RIP
Saturday	10am		Special Intention (Steve)
Sunday 16 th August	Vigil Mass	THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY	John Bower RIP
	10am		Margaret Harrison 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: Francis Parker, David Callon, Maria Fairclough, Lucy Bond, Elizabeth Donovan.

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 is now required by law. If you are attending Mass or visiting for private prayer, 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.

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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM BANK: Community Gateway has a stock of second-hand uniforms for local schools. If you know of a family who may benefit, they can refer themselves at <https://www.communitygateway.co.uk/uniformbank>

RWANDA TRUST: Unfortunately the Rwanda Trust shop in town has now closed, but fundraising continues. Michael Donlan is doing a sponsored walk. To donate, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rgtmichael-donlan>

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 9 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
Saturday	12noon-1pm	Church open and livestream: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church and YouTube
Sunday 16 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

This Sunday we celebrate St Clare's feast day (transferred in our church from 11th August). 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.

