

## People of the Word: Elijah

Over the last fortnight we've made a brief tour of the wisdom literature in the Bible. This week we return to the history of salvation. God had allowed the people to have a king, as they requested, but when the kings proved unfaithful, someone needed to call them back to God. So He sent prophets. Today we meet **Elijah**.



Elijah challenged king Ahab for his injustice and for following the prophets of the false god Baal, calling him and the nation back to the one true God. Guided by the Lord, he fled to the desert during a long drought. God sent ravens to bring him food. He was also fed by the kindness of a widow at Zarephath, who gave from the little she had to help him. When her son died, Elijah restored him to life.



After a famous confrontation with Ahab on Mount Carmel, where he finally exposed the false prophets, Elijah then fled to the desert, fearing for his life, and fell into a deep depression. He was repeatedly woken by an angel who gave him food and water and told him to get up and eat. By the strength of this food Elijah journeyed to Horeb, where he encountered God not in the earthquake, strong wind or fire, but in the gentle breeze. At the end of his life he was carried to the Lord on a fiery chariot, whilst his successor, Elishah, looked on. Elijah, a man of dedication to God and a man of deep contemplation who showed God's power on Mount Carmel, is considered the father of the Carmelite order.

### Questions for reflection:

- In times of depression or sadness, how has God fed and sustained me?
- Are there times when I listen to false prophets and shut out the voice of God?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 10**

**Important: the church is closed until further notice.** Mass and other services are 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)

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	10am	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	For the first Communion children
Monday	10am		Ints Moira Maden
Tuesday	10am		Special Intention (SC)
Wednesday	10am		Henry and Kathleen Haydock RIP
Thursday	10am	<b>St Barnabas</b>	Stuart Gunn RIP
Friday	10am		John and Mary Turner RIP
Saturday	10am	St Anthony of Padua	Baby Martha McLoughlin
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	10am	<b>The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</b>	People of the Parish

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Irene McEvoy, Ken Hollis, Jack Clayton** and all who have died recently.

**LITURGY OF THE HOURS:** Sung Vespers and Benediction streamed live on our YouTube channel on Sunday at 4:30pm.

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Kathleen McMorrow, John Jennings, Marjorie Miller, Fr Fabien Cunliffe, Kathleen Haydock, Bishop John Brewer, Gerard Ibison, Joseph Walton, Lillian Wilkinson, Richard Anderton, Mary Agnes Butler, Catherine Conroy.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JUNE:** That all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

### Supporting your parish financially during the lockdown

Many people have asked how they can contribute to the parish financially at a time when almost all parish income has dried up. If you are still earning and able to contribute, you can save up offertory envelopes until the lockdown ends. Some people have asked for details of how to donate by standing order/BACS. Contact us directly for details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. Thank you for thinking of us at this time, but please only contribute if you are able.

## Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the lovely feast of the Holy Trinity, an invitation for us to celebrate the mystery of God. It follows on beautifully from Pentecost, which we celebrated last week. God has now fully revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit: three Persons, yet one eternal, indivisible God.

Had things been different, this Sunday would have been first Communion day in our parish. I know the children are disappointed that they can't receive Our Lord just yet, but the day will come! We will offer the Mass for them today.

We continue to await news of reopening for our parish, but in the meantime, we will try to offer as much as we can. There are a couple of new initiatives, including an opportunity to look more closely at St Paul's letter to the Philippians and a parish Quiz Night – details below. As of this week we are gradually returning the newsletter to its regular format – as you'll see, there is now a list of the week's events on the back page (Masses are not listed there, but in the usual place).

Keep your spirits up and stay close to the Lord! God bless you all, Fr Andrew.

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**BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION:** A joint event between our church and school, our annual devotions in honour of the Blessed Sacrament take place this Friday, live at 1:45pm on our YouTube channel. There will be various contributions from the children of our school, and a live time of prayer in church, ending with Benediction.

**EXPLORING PHILIPPIANS:** A new group starting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June and running for four weeks on Zoom (see back page). Each week we will explore a chapter of St Paul's letter to the Philippians, with some input from Fr Andrew and opportunities to share. All welcome. Please email us if you'd like to come along.

**PARISH QUIZ NIGHT:** A parish online social event, taking place Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm on Zoom (see back page). Just for fun! Please email us to receive the link to the event.

**AFTER-MASS TEA/COFFEE:** We have a brief social call on Zoom (see back page) after Sunday morning Mass. If you'd like to come, email us for a link. All welcome!

**DEANERY BLESSED SACRAMENT DEVOTIONS:** Next Sunday, Corpus Christi, the usual deanery procession has been replaced by devotions which will be streamed live on St Walburge's YouTube channel, beginning at 2pm. See back page for link.

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

## 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 7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Zoom
	4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	YouTube
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	YouTube
Mon-Fri	4-5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	YouTube
Friday	1:45pm	<b>Blessed Sacrament Procession</b>	YouTube
Saturday	10:30am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	YouTube
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Zoom
	2pm	<b>Deanery Blessed Sacrament Devotions for Corpus Christi</b>	See details below
	4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	YouTube
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	YouTube

**Mass is celebrated at 10am every day** – see page 2 for full details.

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!

### Deanery Blessed Sacrament Devotions

Next Sunday, for Corpus Christi, taking place at St Walburge's. You can participate (online) at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgP4DoEoo8bXwB8mclGvwFg>

## Forthcoming Events

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mass at 10am

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June: Parish Quiz Night, 7pm

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist. Mass at 10am

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Mass at 10am

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June: First meeting exploring Philippians, 7pm.

## 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.