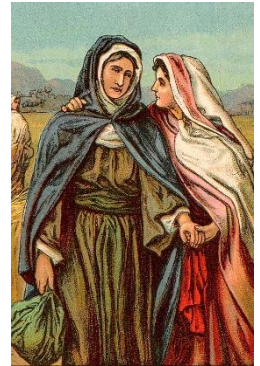


People of the Word: Ruth

Last time we heard of some of the Judges who governed Israel. Later, it would be kings who would rule God's people. Today we meet Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David. She's one of a few women to have a whole book of the Bible bearing her name, and her story is beautiful.



The book begins by telling us of Elimelech, a 'man of Bethlehem' who leaves Israel and goes to live in Moab with his wife Naomi and their two sons. One of the sons marries Ruth, a Moabite woman. Both sons and their father die in Moab, leaving their wives. After this, and because of a famine, Naomi decides to return home. Ruth does not want to be separated from her mother-in-law, and so leaves her homeland and goes to Bethlehem with Naomi, where they settle. She gets a job working in a field for one of Naomi's relatives, Boaz, and later Ruth and Boaz are married. They have a son, Obed, who in turn has a son, Jesse, the father of King David.



Ruth's story is one of family bonds. She is willing to leave behind her homeland and so much that she has known, to go to a strange land, so that she can remain close to her mother-in-law. In her faithfulness, she finds great blessing: a new husband and descendants, among whom would be Israel's greatest king.

Questions for reflection:

- What are the most important relationships in my life? Who has God given me – family, friends – who give meaning to my life?
- Where does God call me to give of myself to build my relationships with others? Do I make sacrifices for the things that really matter in life?

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

Important: the church is closed until further notice, as public gatherings are suspended to prevent the spread of coronavirus. 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

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 12 th	10am	Easter Sunday	People of the Parish
Monday	10am	Easter Monday	Michael Hampson RIP
Tuesday	10am	Easter Tuesday	Christians of the Holy Land
Wednesday	10am	Easter Wednesday	Philip Denton RIP
Thursday	10am	Easter Thursday	Agnus Bryce RIP
Friday	10am	Easter Friday	Fatima and Thanikachalam 25 th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday	10am	Easter Saturday	Tom & Winifred Lacy RIP
Sunday 19 th	10am	Second Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish

All Masses will be celebrated in private and streamed live online. A full timetable for this week can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **James Grant**, and all who have died recently.

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Susan Tankard, Jean Dobson, Michael Hampson, Mary Ann Burke, Hilda Webb, Vera Pearson, Keith Hodgson, Margaret Brown, Thomas Price, Barbara Levett, Peter McNeela, Joyce Botes, Frank Barnish, Ann Counsell.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

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. If you contact us directly we can give the details, if you would like to help in this way. Thank you for thinking of us – please only contribute if you are able.

Father Andrew's weekly message

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, Happy Easter to you and all your loved ones. This is the greatest feast of the year, because we celebrate eternal life: not only the life of the risen Lord Jesus, but the life of heaven He offers to each of us. So it's a feast which ultimately overcomes every suffering and every fear: Jesus has conquered death. Even this, ultimately, has no power over us now.

It's been a Holy Week unlike any other. In so many parts of the world priests have been celebrating the liturgy without a congregation in the church – even the Pope has had to do this. But it's been wonderful that so many people have joined us online for the liturgies of this week. I know that a large proportion of the parish is able to join us, and clearly many people from further afield have also been with us in prayer, watching online during the week. So we are united in the Lord.

Easter is a time when I usually take a moment to thank everyone for all you do for the parish, and this year is no exception! Whatever your part in the life of the parish, thank you for being part of the wonderful community that is St Clare's, and for the ways in which you help others in the community to live and celebrate our common faith in the risen Lord.

Many people have commented on our Benediction of Hospital, which takes place each week during the pandemic. Last weekend we streamed it live, and many people joined us in prayer for that moment. I'm conscious of many healthcare workers in our parish, and many other keyworkers who are making such a difference to others. Thank you. Let's continue to pray for one another.

Donations keep coming in for the Food Bank – thank you for that too. On our Facebook page we also put out a note about the 'Connected Hearts' initiative at RPH. If you can knit/sew etc., maybe you can help! Many charities are suffering loss of income during this time, so this week I was pleased to be able to send £800 to Aid to the Church in Need, money raised from various sources in the weeks before the lockdown, which will now go to help communities in Iraq.

I've spoken to quite a lot of parishioners on the phone now, and am continuing to work through the parish register. I am missing you all! In time I hope to speak to everyone whose up-to-date contact details we have. It will take a while. In the meantime, if you or anyone you know needs anything that I or the parish more widely might be able to help with, please don't hesitate to ask. There are plenty of people willing to help. Wishing you and all your loved ones every blessing for the Easter season. God bless you all, and Happy Easter! Fr Andrew.

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.

Full Timetable for Holy Week

Sunday 12th April: EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday

Mass: 10am

Rosary: 10:30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Saturday:

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 10:30am-12noon

Sunday 19th April: Second Sunday of Easter

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

200 Club

The draw will be made as usual on the third Sunday of the month (next weekend). As usual, an email will be sent out with the winners' details. If you have outstanding payments but would like to be entered for the April draw, please contact the parish office to make arrangements.