

## People of the Word: St Stephen

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses, not only in Jerusalem, but throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). He foretold the spread of the Gospel from Israel to every part of the world, and the later parts of the New Testament tell of how the Good News began to be believed around the Roman Empire. But the word 'witness' in Greek is 'martyr', and Jesus knew that some of the disciples would witness to Him by giving their lives. Today we meet the first Christian to give His life in witness to Jesus: **St Stephen**.



THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

Everything we know of Stephen comes from Acts, which describes Him as a man "filled with faith and the Holy Spirit". He was one of seven men chosen to assist the Apostles in their charitable work – the first deacons of the Church. Arrested for preaching the Gospel, Stephen was put on trial, during which he spoke about how God's plan of salvation had been fulfilled in Jesus. False witnesses were brought against him, as they had been against the Lord. And when Stephen told the leaders that he saw Jesus "at the right hand of the Power" they accused him of blasphemy. He was stoned to death.



As he died, Stephen prayed that his murderers would be forgiven by God. His last recorded words are "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He is the first of countless thousands who have given their lives for their faith, including many people in our own time who die for believing in and proclaiming Jesus as God.

### Questions for reflection:

- How confident do I feel to speak freely about my faith? What makes it hard?
- Do I pray to the Holy Spirit to ask me to overcome these obstacles?

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 30**

Morning 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 back page for information on attending Mass in the church.**

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6pm (vigil)	<b>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Donor's Intention
	9:30am		Joseph Sudell RIP
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Jeff Poole RIP
Monday	9:30am		Patrick O'Donnell RIP
Tuesday	9:30am		48 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Patsy and Alan Cockburn
Wednesday	9:30am	<b>Ss Simon and Jude</b>	Fred Newsham RIP
Thursday	9:30am		Anne RIP & Gerald Topping
Friday	9:30am		Cyril Dixon RIP
Saturday	9:30am		Yvonne Talbutt RIP
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	6pm (vigil)	<b>ALL SAINTS</b>	People of the Parish
	9:30am		John Grace RIP
	11:30am		For Jen and Vivienne
	6pm		Donor's Intention

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

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

**ROSARY:** Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Norman Booth, Jeff Poole, Robert Gerald Potts, George Jolly, Frederick Arthur Newsham, Dorothy Finch, Moira Butler, Monica Jackson, Kathleen Murphy.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER:** We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

### 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. Thank you for supporting our parish.

**SPACE AT SUNDAY MASS:** We have a little space at most of the weekend Masses now, as we have the additional Mass at 11:30am. Please don't hesitate to ask if you'd like to return to Sunday Mass. More details on the back page.

**SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE:** This year our primary school celebrate an online Harvest Service: <https://www.st-clares.lancs.sch.uk/blog/2020-10-16-harvest-2020> It's lovely to see the children giving thanks to God for the gift of the harvest.

**ATTENDING WEEKDAY MASS:** Reserving a place for the morning Mass Monday-Saturday is no longer necessary. You can just turn up. A steward will record your name and (if you don't regularly come) will ask you for contact details.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** this weekend for Sick and Retired Priests' Fund – this supports elderly and ill priests of our diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

**CAFOD COLLECTION:** Our parish raised £693.55 for CAFOD's coronavirus appeal this Fast Day. Our support will ensure our global family can survive, rebuild and heal. Thank you for your generosity your ongoing prayers for those in need.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS:** The deadline to apply for a primary school place for September 2021 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Applications are made online at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-online-for-a-school-place/>.

To apply for a place at St Clare's Primary School you also need a supplementary form, which must be returned to the school by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. These are on the school website: <https://www.st-clares.lancs.sch.uk/parents/admissions.php>

**VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS:** Our local Catholic schools, St Clare's Primary and Corpus Christi Catholic College, both have virtual school tours on their websites. You can find the sites using the links on our website: [www.saintclares.co.uk](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)

**CAN YOU HELP MAIRA?** Aid to the Church in Need are asking the Prime Minister to grant asylum to Maira Shahbaz, a 14-year old Pakistani Christian girl. Maira was raped, forced to marry and convert, and is now threatened with death. Please sign the petition, which can be found online – it only takes a minute. [Click here to sign.](#)

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** Prayers and offers of help for women outside an abortion centre on Tulketh Brow, until 1<sup>st</sup> November. [www.40daysforlife.com/preston](http://www.40daysforlife.com/preston)

**FOOD BANK:** Thank you for your continuing donations of non-perishable food for the Food Bank. Donations may be left in the house porch at any time.

**COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?** St Augustine's Primary School are looking for practising Catholics who would be willing to give some time to serve as school governors. You need not have previous knowledge or experience. Could you help to support Catholic education in the area? Speak to Fr Andrew to find out more.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Monday	6:50pm	<b>Baptism Preparation (1)</b>	Church
Friday	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Saturday	12-1pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

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.

### Attending Mass at St Clare's

Booking is no longer necessary for the morning Mass Monday-Saturday, but **it is essential that you request a place if you wish to come to Sunday Mass (or the Saturday evening vigil)**, as these Masses are extremely busy.

If you wish to attend a Sunday Mass, please decide on a **regular Mass** you wish to attend, 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 Sunday Mass if you have received confirmation that we have sufficient space. In this way we are able to minimise the risks and keep everyone as safe as possible.

**To arrange to come to Sunday 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)
- Which of the four Sunday Masses (Saturday 6pm; Sunday 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm) you wish to attend.
- 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.