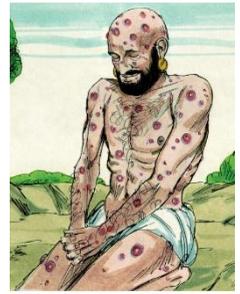


People of the Word: Job

Each week we're following the story of the Bible by meeting the characters who appear in the story. Today we take a slight side-step, moving out of history to meet a fictional character, **Job**. The book of the Bible which bears his name is the first book of the 'wisdom literature' we considered last week. This book, a fine piece of poetry, explores a question which matters to us all: why do we suffer?



Job suffers greatly, despite being innocent of wrongdoing. God Himself describes Job as "a sound and honest man who fears God and shuns evil." Job suffers loss of property, family; he experiences profound grief and great physical pain, all despite his innocence.



Much of the book consists of dialogue between Job and his friends, who discuss with him the reason for his misfortune, and whether he is actually as innocent as he claims. Job himself speaks his frustration with God, worn out by the apparent injustice of his situation – yet he continues to trust that God is good, and, somehow, the Lord will restore his fortunes.

At the end of the book this is exactly what happens. Job is restored to health and prosperity, is granted children and finds happiness. He is often presented as a 'type' (a sort of prophecy) of Christ, who was completely innocent, suffered, but was restored to life in the resurrection. The whole of this book considers the question of innocent suffering and where God is to be found in times of trial.

Questions for reflection:

- How do I respond to suffering in my life? Do I search for God or forget Him?
- Looking back on past sufferings, can I now see the hand of God at work in those times? Have I experienced His grace to help me through sufferings?

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year A; Weekdays: year 2, week 9

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

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 31 st May	10am	Pentecost Sunday	People of the Parish
Monday	10am	Mary, Mother of the Church	Alice Lakeland RIP
Tuesday	10am		Lawrence and Lilian Culshaw RIP
Wednesday	10am	Ss. Charles Lwanga and companions	Pilar Caton RIP
Thursday	10am	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest	David Wilkinson RIP
Friday	10am		Winifred Holman RIP
Saturday	10am		Sister Teresita RIP
Sunday 7 th June	10am	The Most Holy Trinity	For the first Communion children

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Bishop Vincent Malone, 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: Philip Lee, Shaniece Hopkins, Josie Singleton, Mary McCann, Ethel Raisbeck, David Wilkinson, Winifred Murtagh, Baby Levi Barr.

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,

Happy Pentecost! This is one of the most important (and probably one of the most underrated) feasts in the Church's year. On this day the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples of Jesus, enabling them to live as His followers. With good reason, it is often called the 'birthday of the Church'. I hope you can all find some special way to celebrate this wonderful feast.

Yesterday we held a Day of Recollection in preparation for Pentecost. It was a really lovely day (not without one or two technical glitches!) and it was wonderful that so many of you were able to share your experiences of the Holy Spirit at work in your lives. Sincere thanks to everyone who took the time (and plucked up the courage!) to record a short video for us – it really helped me, and I'm sure many others, to think about the Holy Spirit's work and presence in my life, and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces on the screen.

Similarly, it was a real joy to see some of you at the Zoom tea/coffee after Mass last Sunday. I was a bit unsure how it would go, but it flowed really well and there were lots of smiles, so I think people were enjoying it. It lifted my spirits to see those of you who were there. It will be a weekly event for the time being, so if you'd like to receive the link to join us on any Sunday, please email me and let me know. It would be great to see you.

We are also looking at doing a parish quiz night on Zoom – currently in the diary for Friday 19th June. We'll confirm the details in a while, but it could be a lot of fun. I can't promise any great prizes, but the questions will be good!

Today is also the last day of May, and we end this month of devotion to Our Lady grateful that she continues to watch over us in prayer. James has made a lovely video on Mary's life as a woman who knew both great sorrows and deep joy. The two can even go hand in hand, as they did in Mary's life. It's well worth watching. As we end this month we are invited to take part in the Rosary Rally across our nation today. Each part of the country is invited to pray the Glorious Mysteries at different times, so that a wave of prayer sweeps across the land, praying especially for an end to the pandemic. We will livestream the Rosary, praying in company with many others around our diocese, at 5pm this afternoon, after Benediction.

We are all wondering when we will be able to get back to our churches for prayer, and for the sacraments. Hopefully the gradual easing of lockdown will soon reach us. In the meantime, let's allow the Spirit of God to fill our hearts on this feast, bringing us joy and hope in the midst of uncertainty. God bless you all! 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 the Week

Services streamed live: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Sunday 31st May: Pentecost Sunday

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Rosary: 5pm

Daily Timetable – Monday-Friday (and see additional events, below)

Mass: 10am followed by Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Saturday:

Mass: 10am

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

Sunday 7th June: Trinity Sunday

Mass: 10am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 4-5pm

Sung Vespers and Benediction: 4:30pm

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 7th June: Trinity Sunday. Mass at 10am; Vespers at 4:30pm

Friday 12th June: Parish/School Corpus Christi Procession

Sunday 14th June: Feast of Corpus Christi. Mass at 10am; Deanery devotions online

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

Friday 19th June: Parish Quiz Night, 7pm

Wednesday 14th June: Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist. Mass at 10am.

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