



# Mother of Good Counsel Clare Priory

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**The Gift of Sacred Scripture Lk. 1:1-4** *Source of content: mycatholic.life*

St. Luke begins his Gospel addressing to Theophilus giving him reasons why he decided to write the Gospel. This introduction to his Gospel gives us the opportunity to look more deeply at the Holy Bible.

What is your approach to the Bible? How often do you read it? How thoroughly do you understand it? Is the Bible the foundation of your life of faith and knowledge of God?

Sacred Scripture is a gift beyond our imagination. It's a gift from God through which He reveals His perfect love and His perfect plan for us. We should know the Scriptures well, read them often, pray over the verses and allow all that is revealed within those pages to become the foundation of our lives. Let's reflect upon one particular aspect of Sacred Scripture.

The Bible is 100% the work of God and 100% the work of the human author. It is 100/100 so to speak. This means that the human author completely cooperated with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in writing each book and letter. And God, for His part, guaranteed that all that was written came from His heart and inspiration. Therefore, this joint effort reveals that God used the human author for a divine purpose.

This is of great significance to understand for two reasons. First, it reveals that we should love Scripture because it reveals the heart and truth of God as well as the unique personality and humanity of the human author. So we are benefiting from the full revelation of God as well as the unique gift of the human author.

Second, it should reveal to us that, though God will not use us in the same way (i.e., to add to the Bible), He does desire to use us for divine purposes. He desires to consume our unique human personality and use us to shine forth the beauty and splendour of His divinity. He wants a 100/100 cooperation with us, also, so as to shine through us in a radiant way.

Reflect, today, upon two things. First, reflect upon the gift of the Bible and the way that God used the human author to give you this gift. Second, reflect upon the fact that God wants to use you, in all your weakness and sin, to bring His divine presence into our world. Be open to that gift so that you may become a living gift of the Word of God to the world.

**Readings:** Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10, Psalm 18(19):8-10,15, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4,4:14-21

Today's readings can be found at [universalis.com/mass](https://universalis.com/mass).  
Please set your devices to silent mode during Mass.

**Address:** Mother of Good Counsel Church, Clare Priory, Ashen Road, Clare, Sudbury, CO10 8NX

Tel: 01787277326 ▪ Website: <https://www.clarepriory.org.uk/parish>

MASS TIMES **Sundays:** 8 am,10.00 am ▪ **Monday-Friday:** 10:00 am ▪ **Saturdays:** 10:00 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

SACRAMENTS, DEVOTIONS & PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Reconciliation** (Confession): Available by appointment

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Gladson Francesco Dabre OSA. Email: [parishpriest@clarepriory.net](mailto:parishpriest@clarepriory.net)

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Jane and Desmond Crone: Email: [janesc1@gmail.com](mailto:janesc1@gmail.com)

AUGUSTINIAN COMMUNITY (ORDER OF ST AUGUSTINE) Province of England & Scotland

Fr. Stefan Park OSA (Prior), Fr. David Middleton OSA, Fr. George Donaghy OSA,

Fr. Gladson Dabre OSA, Mary Handforth, Barbara Sierp

Mother of Good Counsel Church is under the care of the Order of St Augustine and part of the Diocese of East Anglia registered Charity no. 278742



## PARISH DIARY

See back page for regular Mass & Liturgy schedule

**Sunday** 23<sup>rd</sup> January: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)

**Monday** 24<sup>th</sup> January: Monday, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor

**Tuesday** 25<sup>th</sup> January: Tuesday, the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle - *Feast*

**Wednesday** 26<sup>th</sup> January: Wednesday Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

**Thursday** 27<sup>th</sup> January: Thursday, week 3 in Ordinary Time, St Angela Merici, Virgin

**Friday** 28<sup>th</sup> January: Friday, St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor

**Saturday** 29<sup>th</sup> January: Saturday, week 3 in Ordinary Time, Blessed Virgin Mary

**Sunday**: 30<sup>th</sup> January: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

**St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor:** He was born near Annecy, in Savoy, studied the law, and was ordained to the priesthood despite the opposition of his father. His first mission was to re-evangelize the people of his home district (the Chablais), who had gone over to Calvinism. Always in danger of his life from hostile Calvinists, he preached with such effectiveness that after four years most of the people had returned to the Church. He was then appointed bishop of Geneva, and spent the rest of his life reforming and reorganising the diocese, and in caring for the souls of his people by preaching and spiritual guidance.

St Francis taught that we can all attain a devout and spiritual life, whatever our position in society: holiness is not reserved for monks and hermits alone. He wrote that “religious devotion does not destroy: it perfects,” and his spiritual counsel is dedicated to making people more holy by making them more themselves. In his preaching against Calvinism he was driven by love rather than a desire to win: so much so, that it was a Calvinist minister who said “if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy of it than this man.”

St Francis is the patron saint of writers and journalists, who would do well to imitate his love and his moderation: as he said, “whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love.”

**The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle:** Paul, the young man who looked after the cloaks of the men who were stoning St Stephen, grew into a dedicated and efficient persecutor of Christians. Today’s feast celebrates the day that Christ appeared to him in a vision as he was on the way to Damascus, reproached him for his persecutions and converted him to the true faith.

**Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops:** Timothy and Titus were converted to Christianity by St Paul, and became his companions and helpers. Paul entrusted Timothy with the care of the Christians in Ephesus, and sent Titus to Crete to look after the Christians there. He wrote them the so-called “pastoral” epistles, giving advice for pastors and people alike.

**St. Angela Merici, Virgin:** She was born in Desenzano, in Lombardy, in about 1470. She became a Franciscan tertiary and set up a school to instruct girls in Christianity and good works. In 1535 she founded the Ursulines, an order of nuns devoted to giving a Christian education to girls from poor families. She died in 1540.

**St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor:** He was born of a noble family in southern Italy, and was educated by the Benedictines. In the normal course of events he would have joined that order and taken up a position suitable to his rank; but he decided to become a Dominican instead. His family were so scandalised by this disreputable plan that they kidnapped him and kept him prisoner for over a year; but he was more obstinate than they were, and he had his way at last.

He studied in Paris and in Cologne under the great philosopher St Albert the Great. It was a time of great philosophical ferment. The writings of Aristotle, the greatest philosopher of the ancient world, had been newly rediscovered, and were becoming available to people in the West for the first time in a thousand years. Many feared that Aristotelianism was flatly contradictory to Christianity, and the teaching of Aristotle was banned in many universities at this time – the fact that Aristotle’s works were coming to the West from mostly Muslim sources did nothing to help matters.

Into this chaos Thomas brought simple, straightforward sense. Truth cannot contradict truth: if Aristotle (the great, infallible pagan philosopher) appears to contradict Christianity (which we know by faith to be true), then either Aristotle is wrong or the contradiction is in fact illusory. And so Thomas studied, and taught, and argued, and eventually the simple,

common-sense philosophy that he worked out brought an end to the controversy. Out of his work came many writings on philosophy and theology, including the *Summa Theologiae*, a standard textbook for many centuries and still an irreplaceable resource today. Out of his depth of learning came, also, the dazzling poetry of the liturgy for Corpus Christi. And out of his sanctity came the day when, celebrating Mass, he had a vision that, he said, made all his writings seem like so much straw; and he wrote no more.

## PARISH LIFE:

### Childrens' Liturgy

Good news for parents and children! We hope to be running Children's Liturgy during the 10 am Mass in the not too distant future.

There will be a meeting for all Little Church leaders to agree next steps after **10 am Mass on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

If you are not a Little Church leader but would like to become involved in this wonderful ministry, you would be most welcome. Please contact me to find out more.

Auriol Lamb Cubitt

[auriollambcubitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:auriollambcubitt@yahoo.co.uk)

**Readers at Mass:** there are still some places for READERS at the 5.30 and 10.00 Masses. Please add your name if you can.

**Parish Visits** – Fr. Gladson would like to visit you in your homes and pray with your family over the coming weeks. If you would like Fr. Gladson to visit your home, then please contact Kathy at the Parish Office so that a suitable date/time can be organized.

**Church Cleaning – we are now looking for just TWO new volunteers** - if you can spare some time to come and help in cleaning the Church, please speak with Fr. Gladson.

**The rota for cleaning was sent by email this week to those who have volunteered so far.**

**Birthday greetings** to Helena Bulacz, Alexander Sharpe and Franciszek Piatec who celebrate their birthday this month.

## Priory Announcements:

**Mary Handforth** will be retiring from Community life at the end of January. We owe her a great debt for all she has done for the Priory. There will be a farewell service and presentation next Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to make a donation towards the presentation you will find a collection box at the back of the church.

## LITURGY

✦ **Live Streaming Masses and Services** – Daily Masses will continue to be livestreamed via YouTube Channel.

To view, click on the link or visit: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaXPP-AVGxuAvJrdb616cqA>

✦ **Lectio Divina:** Lectio Divina group meets on Thursday morning after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

✦ **Silent Prayer Group:** meets every Friday after 10am Mass. All are welcome.

## PRIORY RETREATS:

✦ **Spoken Word at the Priory: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 3pm – 4.30pm.** To take place in the church and the event will also be streamed live.

The oral tradition started in the Old Testament continued in the New Testament is as alive today as the word of God is.

Following the success of our first Spoken Word event in October a second event will be held on the above date.

As the date is the day before Valentine's Day the theme is Christian love. This can range from the love found in scripture or the love we have for one another or love of the world in which we all live as followers of Christ.

As before you can come just to listen or present a piece. Fr George will MC the experience.

Pieces can range from poems to letters to readings to whatever you feel may be appropriate.

If you are interested and wish for more information, you can speak to Fr George after Mass or via email at [frdonaghysa66@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frdonaghysa66@hotmail.co.uk).

**Please see January to June 2022 programme on the notice board near the entrance door.**

## SACRAMENTS:

**ABC (About Being a Catholic)** – we cannot love what we do not know. It is now the need of the time that we Catholics need to know and learn more about our faith. If you wish to know more about your faith or anyone who wishes to become Catholic, we will be starting this course soon. Please submit your details to the Parish Office if you are interested.

**First Holy Communion: (FHC) 2022**  
Preparations commenced on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 . The next FHC Class will be held on **30<sup>th</sup> January**. The FHC will be celebrated on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11.00am.

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion:** (Eucharistic Ministers): Thank you to those who attended a short training with Fr. Gladson. **The recommissioning of the ministers will take place this weekend (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022)**

## PRAYERS REQUESTED:

**SICK:** William Marston, John Platt, David Sowerby, Donna Coveney, Jim Coe, Grace Farrant, Liz Webber, Freda Boylan, George Hopkins.

**Name (Feast) Days:** we also pray for all those named Francis, Paul, Timothy , Titus, Angela and Thomas

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:

**Required for September 2022, Director of Schools Service - Diocese of East Anglia.** Please see Diocesan website for more details. [www.rcdea.org.uk](http://www.rcdea.org.uk).

**MONTANA Care Home for the Elderly,** Great Barton, are looking for a night carer who has the experience to work in a 16 bedded care home on Tuesday, Wednesdays, Thursdays and some Saturdays. (9pm to 9am). If you would like more information please call Sr Thaya on 01284 787321. Montana is run by religious Sisters who work with lay staff of any denomination or none.



**Synod on Synodality  
2021-2023:**

**Synod News - Opportunities to listen and discern as a parish community.**

Synod Corner at the entrance to the church has quickly become a place for informal discussion of ten questions the Diocese has asked us to consider. Although the Diocese has encouraged us to submit individual responses to the survey online, many of us see this as an opportunity for encounter, listening and discernment as a parish community.

After last week's first face to face meeting we will be holding two more on **Saturdays 23<sup>th</sup> and 30th January at 4.30pm** in the back of the church, ALL WELCOME, no need to book, just turn up. If you would like to meet one evening on Zoom **or would like to suggest a meeting at another time or day** please contact Jane Crone [janeesc1@gmail.com](mailto:janeesc1@gmail.com) with your suggestions.

The Church wants everyone to have the opportunity to participate in the Synod. Our East Anglian Caritas commission is also holding two meetings for listening, discernment online via Zoom on Thursday February 3 – 1pm and Thursday February 10 – 7.30pm More information is on the Diocesan website [here](#).

With all good wishes Jane, Chris, Christine and Fr Gladson

## STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

**We thank those who have continued to support our Parish during these difficult times. Last Sunday's Collection:** (including Standing Orders paid directly into the Bank) amounted to £602.50.

Thank you for your generosity. God bless you abundantly