

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

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Transfiguration of the Lord (A)

6th August 2017

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.30 am	Celebrant's Intentions

Monday [Feria]

9.00 am Kate Randle

Tuesday [St Dominic, priest]

9.00 am Ann Wall-Molloy

Wednesday [St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin, martyr, patron of Europe]

9.00 am Private Intention

Thursday [St Lawrence, deacon, martyr]

9.00 am Kitty O'Donovan

Friday [St Clare, virgin]

9.00 am Violet Skinner

Saturday [St Jane Frances de Chantal]

9.00 am Private Intention

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and for those who have died: **Sr Elizabeth; Agnes Newham; Agnes Spencer** (anniversaries).

*Please pray also for **Sophia Grace Howard**, who is to be baptised this afternoon, her parents and godparents.*

Bishop Kenney will be coming to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 15th April next year. If you would like to be prepared to receive the sacrament on that occasion, please speak to Fr Sharp.

Last Week's Collection: £344.58. Thank you.

Francis was accustomed to go to Clare for counsel and advice. She was a source of such enlightenment that Francis saw in her a reflection of the Divine Wisdom. As the moon receives the glory of its brightness from the sun, so Clare received her splendour from the grace of God.

Whenever he wanted to know what was the will of God, Francis always asked the Sister at St Damian's [Clare].

From the start of his conversion, the saint had been torn between the desire for contemplation and the duty of preaching: 'Does the good Lord wish me to be a hermit or a missionary? Should I dedicate myself to a life of prayer in the woods and among the rocky hillsides, or ought I to preach in the squares and the towns? Does he call me to the contemplative life or the active life?'

To settle this doubt once and for all and to clear it up, he wanted a definite sign of what the will of God was in this regard. Francis would indeed have asked this directly from God, but, instead, he had recourse to Clare. She was a sure messenger of the Will of God. Francis called Brother Masseo to himself and said, 'Go along to Sister Clare and ask her to gather her more spiritual nuns and to pray that the Lord might reveal to them what is better for me: to preach or to pray. Then go along to Brother Sylvester and tell him the same thing.'

Brother Sylvester was the priest among the friars and lived like a hermit near a large canal of Mount Subasio. Because of this Francis held him in great respect.

Brother Masseo therefore went to St Damian's and made his message known to Clare, who gathered her companions together before that same crucifix which had spoken to Francis.

Then Masseo went off towards Subasio in search of Sylvester... The answer of Sylvester was crystal clear: 'This is what God says, and you are to tell Brother Francis: The Lord has not called you for yourself but also for the souls that will be saved through you.'

Brother Masseo came down from the mountain and back to St Damian's. Clare also has received an answer, and it was the same as Sylvester's: 'Tell Francis that God wishes him to preach in the world.'

When the brother eventually returned to the Portiuncula...Francis without seeking the answer of Clare or Sylvester, simply asked, 'What command did my Saviour Jesus Christ give?' For him Clare and Sylvester were the mouthpieces of God.

Masseo answered, 'To Sister Clare and to Brother Sylvester the Lord has revealed His will: that you go through the world and preach, because He has not chosen you for yourself alone, but also for the salvation of others.'

Francis...with great assurance then said to his companions, 'Let us go out in the name of God.' He took his stick and went off into the country in the direction of Montefalco.

From Piero Bargelli, *The Little Flowers of Saint Clare*
