

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time 10th September 2023 (Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)

Education Sunday



*“Where two or three meet in my name,
I shall be there with them”*

God of love and life,

We pray for every member of our community, both close to home and globally, who are returning to school.

We pray for their places of education to be overflowing with creativity, inspiration and opportunity.

We pray for your peace to fill the classrooms and dining halls, the playgrounds and school buses, and the hearts and minds of those who are worried about returning to school.

We pray that you will equip the teachers and teaching assistants with the tools they need to help the children and young people in their care to fulfil their potential.

We commend our children and young people into your care.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 9 th	No 10.30am Mass today		Feria
	SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE		
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 10 th	9.30am	Special intention (DD)	
Mon 11 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 12 th	9.30am	Eucharistic Service	
Wed 13 th	No Mass today		St John Chrysostom (memorial)
Thu 14 th	No Mass today		The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (feast)
Fri 15 th	9.30am	Eucharistic Service	
Sat 16 th	No 10.30am Mass today		Ss Cornelius and Cyprian (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship		
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 17 th	9.30am	For the sick and housebound of the Parish	

CONFESSIONS: FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00am OR BY APPOINTMENT

This week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 9th	C Williamson	J Hothersall	L Lomax
Sun 10th	K Slater	M Gardner	TBA
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 16th	M Sherry	G Hopkinson	Not open
Sun 17th	C Snape	B Gore	Not open
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, F Fordyce
		Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

Last week: attendance 90, collection £340.10 – thank you!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus teaches his disciples how to settle disputes in the Church

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word church in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the disciples' question about who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the kingdom of heaven must be like children, and he cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; he acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers his disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this

teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

(From <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>)

This week's commemorations

St John Chrysostom (347-407) – “Chrysostom” means “Golden mouth” – a renowned preacher and orator. In 398, as Archbishop of Constantinople, he reformed the corrupt morals of court, clergy and people.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross recalls three events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sasanian conquest of Jerusalem.

Our Lady of Sorrows commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through tradition.

Ss Cornelius and Cyprian. Cornelius became Pope in 251 but died in exile in 253. Cyprian was Bishop of Carthage and was executed by the Roman emperor Valerian.

THIS WEEK there will be Eucharistic Services on Tuesday and Friday at 9.30am.

DURING MY ABSENCE we are grateful to Fr Francis Ball of Sacred Heart, Chorley for covering the weekend Masses – I am sure you will make him feel welcome.

Also, please contact Mick Gardner with any concerns or issues during my absence.

THIS SUNDAY is Education Sunday when we are asked to support the work of the Catholic Education Service by prayer as well as by the **SECOND COLLECTION** if possible. There is information about their work at: <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open **THIS WEEKEND** and again over the weekend of 7th/8th October.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND THE MUSIC GROUP will start again **NEXT SUNDAY**.

NEXT SUNDAY is **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday**, formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, when there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship.

CAFOD's campaign to improve the World's food system - we can help....

The world is facing a food crisis. Climate change, Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine mean that millions of people don't have enough food. We are also feeling the impact of this at home.

CAFOD works with small farmers around the world who produce lots of the world's food. But many of them are facing a huge problem. For hundreds of years they have freely used and shared their own seeds, but laws are being passed that limit what they are allowed to do with their own seeds, giving them little choice but to buy more expensive seeds from large companies. These laws make it even harder for small farmers and their families to produce enough food.

Salina is a small farmer from Bangladesh and she told CAFOD: “To keep the seeds in our own hands is the main thing. Without seeds, being a farmer is not possible.” Small farmers like Salina are doing important work protecting God 's creation and ensuring that seeds are used to feed us all. In Genesis, God says, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the earth, and every tree with seed as its fruit; you shall have them for food.” This is why Salina is writing a letter to the World Bank, which has a lot of influence over agricultural issues, asking them to protect the rights of small farmers to use and share their own seeds.

Please sign Salina's letter on the way out of Mass. By signing your name alongside Salina, we can send a strong message to the World Bank that the Catholic community stands with small-scale farmers.

The letter is at the back of church this week and will be sent to CAFOD this Monday, 11th September.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Margaret O'Neil, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 39 is number 67, Mary Nickson.

The **KEY FOR THE TOILETS** is available at the back of church during Mass.

Rachel Smith and her cousin Sarah White successfully completed their virtual North Coast 500 mile walk and raised **£900** for the **CAITHNESS SEAL REHAB AND RELEASE** charity. Thank you to those who sponsored them – money can handed to Rachel or pushed through her letterbox!.

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE? The Alpha Course is a series of interactive sessions that explore the big questions of life through the lens of the Christian faith, in a relaxed and safe environment. Alpha is for anyone of any age, who is curious to find out more about faith. The course will begin **THIS THURSDAY** at 7.00pm at St Bede's Parish Centre in Clayton Green and meet every Thursday for eleven weeks. For further information or to register your interest please contact either Sr Dorothy or Julie. Phone: Sr Dorothy - 07530238222 or Julie - 07943874257. Email: dorothyhindle234@gmail.com or julieannebrown1971@hotmail.co.uk.

TEA AND COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday mornings. Please come along – you'll be very welcome.

DURING ORDINARY TIME (AUTUMN) we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

23rd Sunday of the year (Education Day) – 10th September 2023

(Priest)

Lord, we place before you our hopes, our dreams and our prayers. We ask you to hear the petitions we make in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Please teach us to listen to the words of the church's leaders, especially Pope Francis. Help us to understand and learn from their experience and knowledge. Lord in your mercy...

We ask you Lord to help political leaders, and others whose jobs influence public opinion, to be guided by your word and become real instruments of peace and justice. Lord in your mercy...

We give thanks for our teachers, for their dedication, patience and resilience. May they be inspired by Christ the teacher, to continue to encourage and inspire young people in their schools with gentleness and compassion. Lord in your mercy...

For all those who do not have access to an education. May they know God's love in their lives. Lord in your mercy...

For migrants and refugees. We ask that all who have fled violence, starvation, or persecution may find places of safety and welcome. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the people of St Joseph's, especially our priest, teachers, parents and all those who work in the parish community and dedicate their lives to the service of God. Lord in your mercy...

We offer these prayers and all our intercessions to Mary, Our Lady as we pray, Hail Mary, full of grace...

In silence, let us make our private intentions to God our Father.

(Priest)

Merciful Father, help us to pray at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man, through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.