

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time 22nd October 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 1)

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



*“Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God”*

A Prayer for Missionaries

We adore you, Jesus our Shepherd and Saviour, and we praise and thank you for your living among us. We ask you to walk beside your missionaries as they seek to proclaim your Gospel – cherish, guide and strengthen them. Help them to be patient when they meet frustrations and encourage them when they are disappointed. Lead them, we beseech you, along the path you desire for them, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 21 st	10.30am	Mary Snape	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: APF/WORLD MISSIONS		Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	John Crilly	
Mon 23 rd	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 24 th	9.30am	Joe Noblett	Feria
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Feria
Thu 26 th	9.30am	Anne & Peter Chadwick	Feria
	1.30pm	Funeral Service – Gerald Bolton	
Fri 27 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 28 th	10.30am	Vocations	Ss Simon and Jude (feast)
	6.00pm	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 29 th	9.30am	For the Parish	

First Saturday of the Month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the Sick during 10.30am Mass

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 21 st		M Russell		G Hopkinson		R Smith
Sun 22 nd		L Rigbye		S Schofield		B Gore
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 28 th		M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 29 th		K Slater		M Gardner		Not open
Bidding prayers	P Thompson	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	Collection counters	J & K Slater	

Last weekend: attendance: 101, collection: £171.50 – thank you!

Readings Isaiah 45: 1. 4-6. 1 Thessalonians 1: 15. Matthew 22: 15-21.

Some of us are old enough to remember the poll tax inflicted upon the nation by the Thatcher government during the late 80's. It caused dissention, riots, governmental resignations and in the end, it was the cause of her downfall. In today's Gospel, we hear of a much earlier poll tax. It was imposed upon the Jewish nation by the Romans: this probably began with the decree issued by Caesar Augustus while Quirinius was governor of Syria; when Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to register and of course it was where Christ was born.

The Pharisees and most respectable Jews if not all, resented paying the tax; not only because it was unfair but because one side of the coin depicted the emperor's head, describing him as 'Son of the Divine Augustus' and on the other side was a picture of the Roman goddess of peace and the words 'High Priest'; both blasphemous to the Jews since for them there is only one who is divine and that is God. And so, there were protests and riots from then on which it is understood, contributed to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70 by the Romans.

Other members of the community did not resent the tax for they were supporters of Herod, who was himself subject to the Roman Emperor, but owed his exalted position to him and so they supported the tax - these were the Herodians. They would have been despised by the Jews as much as the tax collectors who collected for the Romans. But in today's Gospel, they are brought together, united in trying to catch Jesus out and thereby have him arrested for sedition.

So, some disciples of the Pharisees with some Herodians in tow put the question to Jesus: is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not? If Jesus says it is permissible, then he alienates his own followers. If he says it is not permissible, then he can be arrested for sedition. Jesus asks for a coin: whose head is this he asks them. Caesar's, they reply. Well then, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

As we reflect upon his words in the here and now, is Jesus advocating some kind of dual or double obedience - to both state and God...or even obedience to one and to give what is left over, to the other? A clue to a possible answer lies in our first reading where some 500 years before, God is addressing the pagan King Cyrus of Persia: as his instrument through whom he will liberate his (God's) people from their many years of exile in Babylon. (It is said that Cyrus actually read the prophesy of Isaiah and wished to fulfil it, which he did) The point is that all authority is subject to God along with everything else including King Cyrus, Caesar and any other leader. We may remember, after his arrest, Jesus saying to Pilate: *You would have no power over me if it weren't given to you from above;* (Jn 19:11) and it can just as easily be taken away, as Cyrus was to discover when he got above himself.

What then **does** belong to Caesar and what **does** belong to God? Here, we may turn to St Paul who tells the Christians in Rome: *You must obey the governing authorities since all government comes from God...and... civil authorities were appointed by God and so everyone who resists authority is rebelling against God's decision... and that includes the payment of taxes.* (Rom 13: 1-2. 6.) **So, there is nothing that belongs to Caesar independently of God since all things belong to God.** A little later, Paul tells them: *owe no one anything except love for each other. The one who loves another fulfils the law, for love does no wrong to a neighbour...* (Rm 13:8 & 10)

To conclude: whether it is permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not, seems to depend on how well Caesar or any leader or government embody the things of God such as justice, equity, peace, love and forgiveness...even of our enemies.

Meanwhile, turning to the present state of affairs; those virtues are, sadly but unsurprisingly lacking in the incendiary environment of the middle east at this time, and any expectation of their realization any time soon, unlikely, if ever. Yet, it was in this hallowed part of the world that God's message of peace, love and forgiveness took flesh and dwelt among us and all things are possible for God. In faithful perseverance then, we must continue to pray on their behalf, that peace, love and forgiveness once again, become flesh in those troubled lands, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection

Forgiveness is above all a personal choice, a decision of the heart to go against the natural instinct to pay back evil with evil. It demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin. (St John Paul II)

With Prayers, Fr. Raphael.

This week's Saints

Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles of Christ. Simon the Zealot, also known as Thaddaeus, was the brother of James. Both are thought to have preached and been martyred in Persia. Jude is Patron of hopeless or lost causes, apparently because for many years, unlike all other saints, he was not invoked for anything because his name was confused with that of Judas Iscariot. Now however, when invoked, he favours even the most hopeless of clients!!

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY which is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world. It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting **Missio**, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries like Sr Mary who has given her whole life to bring the love and hope of Jesus to situations of extreme poverty and injustice. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important **SECOND COLLECTION** which will sustain the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible: missio.org.uk.

SAFEGUARDING: In line with CSSA policy for requirements for 3-yearly DBS checks, deaneries within the Archdiocese of Liverpool now have to comply with a structured re-check that can be sustained on a 3-yearly cycle. The implementation of this plan for our deanery will commence in December.

Within the next few weeks volunteers who require a DBS certificate will be asked to complete the following 3 forms: an identification form, provide 3 documents for verification, an electronic DBS application form.

It would be much appreciated if, when you receive these forms, they are completed and returned as soon as possible. This way the re-checks for volunteers for our Deanery will be completed at the same time and become more manageable.

Thank you for all the volunteering you do for the Parish. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Frances Fordyce, Parish Safeguarding Representative.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023- 24: From November 2023, children in school Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be a series of 7 meetings that will take place in St Joseph's Church. These monthly meeting will be on a Thursday evening to help parents prepare their child to receive the Sacraments. The meetings are for parents and children. The 1st meeting will be on November 9th at 6pm and will last no longer than an hour.

If you wish to be enrolled as part of the Sacramental Programme and do **NOT** attend St Joseph's School, please could contact Fr Raphael or Mrs Fordyce – 07813123855/frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk.

PLEASE PRAY for Margaret Hindle, who has died, and for those who are sick or housebound including Rose Higginson, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 45 is number 25, Nuala and Brian Joyce.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: The 'Light the Blue Touch Paper and... Tour' is an autumnal return for the local fund-raising musical trio. There will be a set of favourite offerings plus one or two new songs. All the funds will go to a very special but small project, the Zambia Society Trust. The lads will guarantee that all the money will go directly to the people in need of some help in schools and in a hospital as the charity involved doesn't have any paid staff. Anything raised will help buy simple supplies such as pencils, workbooks and bandages/dressings and these are taken out by volunteers at their expense. The gig is at the **Parish Hall on Friday 3rd November 7.30**. Bring your own tipple. There may even be some really naff indoor fireworks if enough folk turn up. Spread the word!

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

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY This will take place on Tuesday, 31 October from 9:30am to 11:00am. Please see the poster at the back of church. For more information, please telephone (01254) 853473 or email secretary@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

Bidding Prayers for 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time A – World Mission Sunday

Priest:

On this World Mission Sunday, we unite with the whole Catholic Church in praying for the coming of God's Kingdom of peace and justice.

Reader:

For the needs of the Church: On World Mission Sunday, let us pray for Pope Francis and all the leaders of the Church around the world. Help them to spread the good news, shining God's light where there is darkness. *Lord in your mercy....*

For Public Authorities: We pray for all political and community leaders around the world. Help them to act fairly, wisely and with the thoughts of the whole world in mind. *Lord in your mercy....*

For those in need: We pray for those in need around the world and the charities, missionaries and volunteers that give up their time to help in whatever way they can. Especially we pray for those helping people caught or affected in any way by natural disasters. *Lord in your mercy....*

For those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ: We pray that we obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all those in need of the light of the Gospel. *Lord in your mercy....*

Let us join our prayers with those of Mary, the mother of Jesus as together we say, Hail Mary

In silence we put our own prayers before Our Father....

Priest:

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ calls us to be missionary disciples. May your Church so abound in love and compassion that the joy of the Gospel will fill the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. We ask this through the same 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.