

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time 5th November 2023 (Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)



*“Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled
and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted”*

Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel. We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

(From the CAFOD website)

THIS WEEK

Sat 4 th	10.00am	Confessions	St Charles Borromeo (memorial)
	10.30am	For the sick of our Parish	
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 5 th	9.30am	Stuart Dolphin	
Mon 6 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 7 th	9.30am	Noel Murphy	Feria
Wed 8 th	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	Feria
Thu 9 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (feast)
Fri 10 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Leo the Great (memorial)
Sat 11 th	10.30am	EBC	St Martin of Tours (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Remembrance Sunday
Sun 12 th	10.30am	The Keany family	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 4 th		C Williamson		P Cook		L Gardner
Sun 5 th		C Snape		B Gore		K Slater
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	C & K Snape
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 11 th		G Hopkinson		P Fawcett		P Hothersall
Sun 12 th		K Snape		F Fordyce		C Snape
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen

Last weekend: attendance: 116, collection: £368.45 – thank you!

Readings: Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13, Matthew 23:1-12.

Today's readings should provoke a little discomfort for ministers of the priesthood.

In the Gospel, Jesus accuses the Scribes and Pharisees of hypocrisy, for although they occupy the chair of Moses, they do not practice what they preach. They wear showy garb, unnecessarily broad phylacteries and longer tassels, they take the places of honour, enjoy having people grovel before them addressing them as Master, Father and Teacher.

Those titles belong to *God alone and the Christ*.

Four or five centuries earlier, the prophet of our first reading also accuses the religious leaders of the day (the Priests) for not listening to the Lord or glorifying his name and causing many to stumble by their errant teaching: *have we not one Father... did not one God create us* the prophet asks.

What of today... has anything changed?

Bishops, Priests and Deacons, who represent the teaching authority of the church, still wear eye-catching garments, "binding" and "losing" according to the teaching of the church, and are honoured with titles such as 'Your Holiness', 'Your Eminence', 'Your Grace' and of course 'Father'.

So, are we any different from the Priests of Malachi's day or the Scribes and Pharisees of the Gospel?

We presume to hope that not all the Priests of the past or the Scribes and Pharisees were the object of God's wrath; for example, Nicodemus who was a leading Pharisee in St John's Gospel, seeking out Jesus by night in order to learn from him. (Jn 3:1ff)

Moreover, the phylacteries and tassels served the good purpose of reminding them of God's saving acts and his love for them as his chosen people. (eg Ex 13:9 & Dt 6:8)

The elaborate Priestly vestments of today found their origins in the need to stand out in the vast basilicas of the past so that all could see the celebrant of the Mass and the bright colours were designed to draw the eye, the heart and mind prayerfully into the liturgical time of year.

The problem arises when the disposition and attire of the Priest, as with the Pharisees and Scribes, seeks to draw attention to themselves rather than to God...it becomes all about Father and his liturgical tastes.

It is too easy to forget that the liturgy and its visual paraphernalia (albeit some of them outmoded) are *Sacramentals* to assist our prayer and devotion heavenward.

The priest is a sign of God's presence among us and is sacramental in its nature and so it is in that sense that he may be addressed as 'Father' – a gift and honour beyond words, of the Holy Spirit – passed down through the centuries by the *laying-on-of-hands*.

'The Lord be with you' he says and the people respond; 'And with your Spirit' meaning: the Spirit gifted to you in order to perform your priestly duties.

And his title of 'Father' can only be in the sense that it derives from. and is bestowed by. God the Father, along with the blessing with which he is entrusted, a blessing unique to his priesthood and with which he can bless others.

But for all of us who. through baptism, share in the priesthood of Christ. there is also the temptation to display a 'holier than thou' attitude... and *religion*, instead of leading them to God, **becomes** their God.

To conclude: all the baptised share in the Priesthood of Christ. in and through our reverence of the things of earth, the things of heaven and especially through our reverence and love for one another. But if we are to safeguard ourselves against pride, **all** of us need to heed our Lord's words:

Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.

Reflection

Ah, how true it is that we love ourselves too much and proceed with too much human prudence, that we may not lose an atom of our consideration! Oh, what a great mistake that is! The Saints did not act thus. (St Teresa of Avila)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael

This week's Commemorations

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (c324)

The Cathedral Church of Rome built on the site of an ancient palace belonging to the family of the Laterano. The original Basilica was built by the Emperor Constantine in 324 and given to the Bishop of Rome where they presided until the 14th cent. The present one, dedicated to St John, is where the Pope has his Seat as Bishop of Rome. It is the Mother and Head of all the churches in the city and throughout the world, and is therefore the sign of unity.

St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church (440-461)

He brought order and stability at a time of doctrinal and civil disorder: repelling barbarian invasions and famously persuading Attila the Hun not to invade Rome. Among his writings and reforms, he clarified the doctrine of the incarnation and the primacy of Peter – a man of clear and forceful intellect and faith.

St Martin of Tours, Bishop (316-97)

He left the army to fight for Christ giving half his cloak to a shivering beggar who later in a dream, revealed himself as Christ. After ordination, he founded monasteries, educated the clergy and had a special care for the poor.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be **open every weekend** until Christmas.

MASS NEXT SUNDAY (12th) will be at **10.30am** to give me time to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at Hoghton Cenotaph.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023-24: The first meeting will take place **THIS THURSDAY, November 9th, at 6pm.**

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

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS and at Mass this weekend, we will remember especially the following who died during the last 12 months:

Leonard Bradley	Martha Garstang	Maureen Dignon	Agnes Wrathall	Angela Duncan
Margaret Botham	Ann Lumb	Roger Powell	David Haydock	Susan Moon
Sidney Holding	Hilda Warbrick	Doreen Sherry	Anne Chadwick	Monica Bolton
Malcolm Smith	Margaret Hindle	Gerald Bolton	Francis Elliott	

Following long-standing Church custom, there will be a Mass Intention box for the departed in front of the altar throughout November. Please place the intention and donation into the box and Holy Mass will be said for them each week throughout the month.

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.

PLEASE PRAY for Francis Elliott who died recently, 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 47 is number 3, Geraldine Kellett.

Trinity Methodist Church have a "**CRAFTY CHRISTMAS MARKET**" on Saturday 18th November from 10.00am to 3.00pm. See the poster on the noticeboard for more details.

Bidding prayers – Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time – 5th November 2023

Priest: Loving Jesus, we bring our prayers and petitions to you.

Reader:

Today we hear about how, in God's eyes, all are equal and of the same importance. Let us follow this example and treat all with kindness and respect. Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for world leaders, that they may serve their people with honesty, making decisions for the good of all. Lord hear us.

We pray for the gift of peace for all those facing conflict in their lives. We also pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially for those involved in the conflict in Israel. May a solution be found soon. Lord hear us.

We pray for The Church, for its leaders and for lay people, that they continue to do God's work. May they be shining examples of God's teachings. Lord hear us.

We pray for our parish community, for those who have died, those who are mourning loved ones, those in pain and those who care for them. May they gain strength from their faith. Lord hear us.

We pray for all those departed from this life; may all families be reunited in the Kingdom of God. Lord hear us.

Let us turn to Mary our Mother as we say: Hail Mary.....

In silence, we place our own concerns before the Lord.

Priest: Loving Father accept these prayers. We ask this 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.