

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King 26th November 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)

YOUTH SUNDAY



*“He will separate men one from another
as the shepherd separates sheep from goats”*

A Prayer for Youth Sunday

Loving God, please protect our youth from the dangers present in our world today. Be with them through sickness and health, sorrow and joy, loneliness and friendship, success and failure. Give them the courage and strength to make the right decisions. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Sat 25 th | 10.30am | Pope's intentions | BVM |
| | SECOND COLLECTION: ANIMATE YOUTH SERVICE | | Our Lord, Jesus Christ, Universal King |
| | 6.00pm | Christine Jamieson | |
| Sun 26 th | 9.30am | For the Parish | |
| Mon 27 th | No Mass today | | Feria (week 34) |
| Tue 28 th | 9.30am | Ann and Peter Chadwick | Feria |
| Wed 29 th | 9.30am | Sr Teresa Malone | Feria |
| | 6.00pm | Advent Reflection (in the Parish Room) | |
| Thu 30 th | 9.30am | Deceased of the Jamieson family | St Andrew (feast) |
| Fri 1 st December | 9.30am | Holy Souls | Feria |
| Sat 2 nd | 10.30am | Anne Bolton | BVM |
| | SECOND COLLECTION: CHRISTMAS FLOWERS | | First Sunday of Advent |
| | 6.00pm | Sheila Margaret Cowsley | |
| Sun 3 rd | 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 25 th | | G Kellett | | G Hopkinson | | R Smith | |
| Sun 26 th | | B Cook | | J Slater | | K Slater | |
| Bidding prayers | B Kellett | Children's Liturgy | L Worwick | | Collection counters | B Kellett & M Russell | |
| Next week | | Reader | | Eucharistic Minister | | Bookshop | |
| Sat 2 nd | | L Lomax | | L Gardner | | L Gardner | |
| Sun 3 rd | | F Fordyce | | L Rigbye | | C Snape | |
| Bidding prayers | L Lomax | Children's Liturgy | L Rigbye, J Kitchen | | Collection counters | J & K Slater | |

Last weekend: attendance: 116, collection of £340.20 – thank you!

From Bishop Tom on his visitation:

My first visit to Brindle was in the early 1980's. Fr John Johnson, a curate at St Oswald's, Ashton-in-Makerfield, where the hand of St Edmund Arrowsmith, one of the Lancashire Martyrs, is kept for veneration, had arranged a coach for parishioners to visit 'the house of the last Mass' which Edmund celebrated before being arrested in a field in your parish. I remember meeting Mr and Mrs Hall who lived in the house on Gregson Lane.

My first visit to St Joseph's church was in the late 1990's. I attended a Festival Mass which was organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society and celebrated by Fr Vincent Burrows OSB. I recall that we had difficulty finding the church!

I was baptised by a Benedictine priest in St Oswald's church, Padgate, Warrington. When I called to see Fr Raphael some years ago, he showed me a photograph of Fr Nicholas Walford OSB, the priest who baptised me. Fr Burrows was from Warrington, and he celebrated Mass in our church when he was on holiday or visiting his father.

It is a small world and I think we often find that our lives are connected in wonderful ways.

During the past seven months I have been doing Parish Visitations in the Lancashire Deanery. The deanery has 19 churches across a large area from Brindle to Tarleton and from Penwortham to Coppull. I have celebrated Masses in the parishes and visited the primary schools. I met one of your parishioners who is a senior leader in one of our high schools.

When I am asked how I find the parishes, I say: 'I find life and I find faith'. I find it very encouraging to see children, women, and men, and those who are less mobile these days, living out the faith in the time and place we find ourselves.

The Church's Liturgical Year draws to a close this week as we celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King. The scripture readings present us with vivid images of the kind of king that Jesus is and how we, his sisters and brothers, ought to live our lives in this present age. Finally, the scriptures remind us of the inheritance we hope to share with our Lord and King, and his Father in heaven.

The king is a 'Shepherd King'. In St John's gospel Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd: the one who will lay down his life for his sheep. We are called to be like him by laying down our lives for one another, especially for the poorest and those mentioned in St Matthew's gospel. One day in the future may we hear the words in today's gospel addressed to us by our Shepherd King: 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world'.

This week's Saint

St Andrew, Apostle and disciple of John the Baptist, who introduced his brother Simon Peter to the Lord. A legend has it that sometime around the 9th century, King Angus and his army found themselves in danger of defeat by the Saxons in what was then, Northumbrian territory. Fearing defeat he led prayers and then saw a cloud formation of a white saltire cross against the blue sky. By that sign, he vowed to make St Andrew, whose relics were believed to have come to Scotland, patron Saint of Scotland.

This weekend we welcome **BISHOP TOM NAYLON** to our Parish as he makes his visitation.

THIS SUNDAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY when we are invited to support the work of the Animate team – a group of young people who offer a year or more of their lives to live in community and to work with young people in our Diocese. They organise faith-based events for schools and youth groups as well as an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. There are flyers at the back of church from which you can find out more about their work. There are envelopes in the regular-giving packs, but if you do not have these there are envelopes available at the back of church.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for Christmas flowers for the church.

There will be a **FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** – our chance to make Christmas a bit more special for those less fortunate than ourselves.

If anyone wants some of the **WOOD** from the lime tree that was in front of church, please help yourself – donations to offset the cost of its felling would be appreciated.

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

ADVENT REFLECTION – why not take time out of the busy-ness of life for an hour's prayer and reflection in the build up to Christmas? Each session starts with Vespers (the evening prayer of the Church) then we reflect on the readings for the coming Sunday and end with Compline (the night prayer of the Church). There's no heavy theology involved, just a bit of peace and quiet at the end of the day. Every Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Parish Room, starting **THIS WEDNESDAY** when we will look forward to Advent Sunday.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – What do you buy for the loved one who has everything? Maybe a Winter Survival Kit, a Sewing Kit, a Self-Watering Garden, or even a Goat! Not delivered to them of course, but delivered, on their behalf, to someone who really needs it. This is the idea of CAFOD's World Gifts. At the back of church you will find catalogues including the items above and many more, with details of how to order them. This can also be done online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>.

SJOG HOMES FOR UKRAINE: There are flyers at the back of church which may be of interest to anyone who might wish to take in guests fleeing the ongoing war in Ukraine. The charity, St John of God Hospitaller Services, will provide matching, training and support for UK-based sponsors and Ukrainian guests through their Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The flyers give brief details of these. This is only one aspect of the work done by the charity. You can find out more and donate to support their work via the website: <https://sjog.uk/about.php>.

PLEASE PRAY for Sr Teresa Malone SHCJ who has died, 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 50 is number 61, John Dowse. The new year for the club starts **NEXT SUNDAY**, when subs become due. You can pay for the full year (£50) or in blocks of 10 weeks (£10, 5 times over the year). Payment can be by cash, cheque (payable to Brindle Books) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer – see Lesley or Mick for the account details. In the current year, despite losing a few members, we have paid out £1,500 in prize money and raised £1,360 for church funds – thank you! New members are always welcome – again, please see Lesley or Mick or leave your name and contact details in the bookshop with your subs.

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

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

RISING COSTS

For everyone, the cost of living is presently rising at an alarming rate. Energy costs are at an all-time high, and the cost of essentials at the supermarket increases each week. So now is not a good time to appeal for additional help for the church's finances, but sadly, however, it is necessary. The heating bills for the church are rising just as much as in your homes, and the maintenance of the old buildings are a constant drain on the church's income.

So we are asking that if you can do so without making your personal situation much worse, could you consider adding a little extra in your weekly offering or monthly standing order? Just a 10% increase will help offset the much greater costs of electricity, gas and essential maintenance the church faces in the coming months.

If you are setting up or amending a standing order, the account details are: **Account name:** Archdiocese L'Pool Brindle St Joseph's Presb 007, **Account number:** 71544691, **Sort code:** 40-29-12, **Account type:** Business.

Also, if you pay UK income tax, signing up for Gift Aid will cost you nothing, but allow the church to reclaim from the government an additional 20% of your offering.

Another extremely valuable benefit for the church, but one which is often not considered is that of leaving a legacy to the benefit of St Joseph's. If you are considering writing or making amendments to your will, this would be a perfect time to add a clause defining the amount you would like to give to the church. It is very important that any alterations to a will are officially sanctioned to avoid any issues at the time of probate. Thank you.

Christ the King Sunday (Youth Sunday) – 26th November 2023

(Priest)

As we unite to welcome the message of Christ the King, let us come together and ask our Father to hear and answer our prayers.

(Reader)

Let us pray for Pope Francis, the Bishops and all the clergy, who spend their lives in the service of all. May God bless them and deepen their insight and devotion. Lord in your mercy...

On this Youth Sunday we give thanks for our young people and the rich contribution that they make to the parish. We pray for the work of their parents, teachers and mentors and recognise the efforts of everyone who devotes their time to teach and guide them. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all young people with physical or mental health problems: may they receive all the help and support they need. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all world leaders, that they will govern justly with respect for the rights of all. Grant them the wisdom and compassion they need to make difficult decisions. Lord in your mercy...

Lord, we thank you for providing us with food, shelter and warm clothes to wear during the cold weather. We pray that those less fortunate than ourselves might find some comfort. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for everyone in our parish, especially those who are sick, bereaved, lonely or facing an uncertain economic future. We hope that our prayers will bring them some comfort and contentment. Lord in your mercy...

We know that Mary our mother will always help us in our prayers. Let us think of her as we say Hail Mary...

In silence we make our private petitions to God our Father.

(Priest)

Father, you call us to be part of your kingdom of which Christ is King. We place before you our heartfelt prayers and ask you to hear and answer them 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.