

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

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## Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

### 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 2)

## PEACE SUNDAY



*“Look, there is the lamb of God”*

### Prayer for Peace Sunday

God our creator and sustainer, we thank you for the gifts of creativity you have given us, for the ability to explore science and understand your creation. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have used science for evil and not for good, for war and not for peace. Make us vigilant as we develop technology, that violence and discrimination may not take root, that injustice and inequality will not be fuelled, that the poor and vulnerable will not pay the cost. May all that we create contribute to peace and justice. Amen

*(Catholic Bishops' Conference)*

# THIS WEEK

Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	Deceased of the Elliott and Craven families	<b>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	The Martland Family	Feria
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Requiem: Rita Gorrell</b>	St Anthony (memorial)
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Christian Unity	Feria
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	<b>Requiem: Frances Cartlidge</b>	Feria
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Wilf & Paul Nicholson	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	George Wright	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>		G Kellett		P Cook		Not open
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>		C Snape		J Slater		Not open
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	P Thompson	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	<b>Collection counters</b>	C & K Snape	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>		L Lomax		P Fawcett		Not open
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>		K Slater		L Rigbye		Not open
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	J Beeley	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	A Fowler B Gorrell	<b>Collection counters</b>	P & J Kitchen	

**Last weekend: attendance: 109, collection: £301 – thank you!**

**Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 3-10. 19. 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15. 17-29. John 1: 35-42.**

*Speak Lord, your servant is listening*

At the time of his *Calling* Samuel, we are told, had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and in the previous verse, we are told that it was rare for God to speak in those days and visions were uncommon. (3:1) Yet, here is the Lord calling Samuel by name: *Samuel, Samuel*. Samuel runs to the old priest of the temple, Eli and says: *Here I am since you called me*. I did not call you Eli replies and tells Samuel to go back to bed.

This happens three times before Eli realises what is happening. He tells Samuel that next time he hears someone calling, he is to say: *Speak Lord, your servant is listening*. Samuel does so and the Lord came to him and stood by him and Samuel became the greatest of God's Judges over the people.

The O.T. is full of manifestations of God in full view of people, yet here, we are told, it is rare. Eli's faith must have been grounded simply in the 'knowing' of God's presence... symbolised by the ark of the covenant which contained, among other things, the Law as given by God to Moses and which rested at the heart of the temple.

How present to us do we feel God is as we enter **this** holy place... not a temple but a church with not an ark at its centre containing the old law of Moses, but a tabernacle containing the New Law which **is** Christ? Yet, in his presence, we too may wonder at the silence of the Lord.

Fast forward from the time of Samuel a thousand years or more, again to a period where it was rare for God to speak. But when he did, it was John the Baptist who, like Eli, recognised the presence of God...indeed, the Word of God. He stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God,' and allowed his own disciples to follow Jesus, who turns round and asks them what they want. They ask him where he lives and he invites them to *come and see*... and their lives were changed forever.

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Both readings describe events over a thousand years apart but with so many similarities: the apparent silence of God, (as if absent) then his sudden presence: in his calling of Samuel, in his call of the disciples and in his abiding presence with those eager to respond to his call.

We remember that the disciples had asked Jesus where he lived, meaning: where do you *abide*... how can we get to know more about you? Because to live with the Lord is to abide with him, to get to know him, to live with him and enter into his life.

So, for us now, so many years later: when we enter **this** holy space, do we feel his presence? Do we hear him calling us by name? I do not think any of us would be here if we didn't feel *called*, in some sense, away from our comfortable homes and routines. Moreover, when a person is called, it is usually into the presence of the one who calls, and we **are** in God's presence. However, we can be pretty sure that we have indeed been called into the presence of God if we can say with Samuel: ***Speak Lord, your servant is listening*** for these words foreshadow Jesus' own response to the call of his Father and ours.

### Reflections

On each occasion, I say: *Lord, thy will be done! It's not what this or that one wants, but what **you** want me to do.* This my fortress, this my firm rock, this is my sure support. (St John Chrysostom)

With Prayers,  
Fr. Raphael.

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### This Week's Saint

**St Anthony** Abbot & Hermit (251-356): Born in upper Egypt to a wealthy family, in his Life of St Anthony, St Athanasius tells us that at the age of about twenty, his parents died and about six months later while thinking of the sacrifices followers of Christ had made, he entered a church just as the Gospel was being read which was about the rich man whom Jesus told to sell all he had, give the money to the poor and then to come and follow him.

He immediately left the church, sold and gave away his property but retained enough to maintain himself and his younger sister but after another visit to the church where he heard the words Do not be anxious about tomorrow, he gave away all he had, put his sister into a convent and embarked upon the ascetic life, living by the work of his hands and praying constantly. He attracted a following, contributed to orthodoxy against the heresies circulating at that time. He encouraged those being persecuted – even seeking martyrdom himself, but ended up living to a great old age. Although he wasn't the first monk or hermit, he is thought of as the Father of monasticism.

According to the Oxford Dictionary of Saints and various articles on the internet, in the Middle Ages, he is associated with the healing of a medical condition caused by a fungal poisoning in rye grass called Ergot which caused Ergotism or Erysipelas known as St Anthony's fire and in France around 1095, a Roman Catholic congregation was formed to care for those suffering from this disease. He is Patron of monks and of healing including the healing of animals.

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**THIS SUNDAY IS PEACE SUNDAY** – for more information, go to: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/>.

**REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION** is open from this Monday (15<sup>th</sup> January) until 15<sup>th</sup> March. Please go to <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/confirmation-programme> for more details.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Fran Nolan and Rita Gorrell who have died, for those who are sick or housebound including Frances Fordyce, Fr Laurence Mayne, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**DURING ORDINARY TIME (WINTER)**, i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

**THE OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** begins this Thursday (18<sup>th</sup>).

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 5 is number 27, Susan & Mike Sherry.

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**TEA AND COFFEE** are served after Mass on Sunday morning – come along, you'll be most welcome!

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### 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

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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.

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**BRINDLE PLAYERS** pantomime, Knight Fever, will be staged in the Parish Hall on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Tickets can be purchased at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/brindle-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brindle-players). For large group bookings please contact them via [ticketsbrindleplayers@gmail.com](mailto:ticketsbrindleplayers@gmail.com) or call 07711 848994. More details at: [www.brindleplayers.co.uk](http://www.brindleplayers.co.uk).

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## BIDDING PRAYERS

**Priest:**

Heavenly Father, in trust and hope, we offer our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

**Reader:**

Let us pray for all Christian Churches. May we be united in faith and action to follow Christ's teaching of love and peace.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

On Peace Sunday we pray for an end to conflict in the world. May God guide all who work for justice and peace.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for all who have been affected by storms and floods in our country and throughout the world.

*Lord, in your mercy...*

Let us pray for our parish community, and for those who are suffering through sickness, worry or sorrow. May our prayers comfort and encourage them, and those who care for them#

*Lord, in your mercy...*

We ask Our Lady to add her prayers to ours as we say together "*Hail Mary...*"

In silence we pray to God for our own intentions.

**Priest:**

God of mercy and compassion, we bring our prayers to you through your son Jesus 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.