

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time 21st January 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 3)

DAY OF THE WORD OF GOD



“Repent and believe the Good News”

Prayer for the Day of the Word of God

God our Father, you have given us faith in you and in your living word. We ask you to help us grow in that faith as we meditate on your word, so that we may worthily witness to that word by the manner of our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

THIS WEEK

Sat 20 th	10.30am	Wilf & Paul Nicholson	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 21 st	9.30am	George Wright	
Mon 22 nd	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 23 rd	9.30am	Ann & Peter Chadwick	Feria
Wed 24 th	9.30am	Christine Jamieson	St Francis de Sales (memorial)
Thu 25 th	9.30am	Christian Unity	The Conversion of St Paul (feast)
Fri 26 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Ss Timothy and Titus (memorial)
Sat 27 th	10.30am	Pope's intensions	Feria
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 28 th	9.30am	Bob Abbott	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 20 th		L Lomax		P Fawcett		Not open
Sun 21 st		K Slater		L Rigbye		Not open
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 27 th		L Gardner		J Hothersall		L Gardner
Sun 28 th		C Snape		S Schofield		K Slater
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, G Fowler		Collection counters	L & M Gardner

Last weekend: attendance: 126, collection: £404 – thank you!

Readings: Jonah 3: 1-5. 10. 1 Corinthians 7: 20-31. Mark 1: 14-20.

Last week we heard about the *calling* by God of the boy Samuel who gave himself to the service of God for the rest of his life and we heard about the *calling* of Peter and his brother Andrew according to St John's Gospel.

This week, we have a different account of the *calling* of Peter and Andrew, also James and his brother John according to St Mark's Gospel.

But Jesus also had a message from God: *The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.*

Repent means to change one's mind... even to change direction - from sin and death to right living and life in God - eternal life in God.

Jonah the prophet of our first reading, is an example of how, even in the knowledge of the God who calls, we can still turn away from him... indeed, Jonah flees in the opposite direction to Nineveh, the place to which he had been sent.

The link with the Gospel is the call to repentance, for Jonah had been called by God to warn the Ninevites that unless they turn from their evil ways, God will destroy them.

It is while he is in the belly of the great fish, that Jonah contemplates his own *calling* and after being regurgitated onto dry land, God gives Jonah a second chance to carry out his mission, which he does.

The story of Jonah tells us something of God's patience: he did not give up on Jonah but created circumstances... albeit it bizarre circumstances... and gave Jonah the time in which he could *change his mind* - he will surely do that for you and me too.

But, as we reflected last week, we may say: I **am** responding to God's calling otherwise I wouldn't be here now - which is true - but what might we yet, be holding back on?

Because there is another aspect of this story which, though not specifically relevant to this week's theme of the call to repentance, is no less a *calling* - and that is to mercy and

the forgiveness of others.

For after hearing God's call to repentance through his prophet Jonah, the people of Ninevah did repent and, in his mercy, God spared them.

This frustrates and angers Jonah because he believed they deserved to be wiped off the face of the earth for their sins against God.

You have to read the whole story to see how God, in his continued mercy, gently teaches Jonah the error of his ways.

May he as gently teach us the error of **our** ways as he calls us to *repent and believe the Good News*.

Commemorations this week

St Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Church (1567-1622). As a priest, much of his time was given to winning people back from Calvinism which he achieved through effective preaching and being driven more by love than anything else, but Calvinism always posed a threat to his life. As Bishop he was devoted to the reorganization of his diocese but especially to the caring of souls through his preaching and spiritual guidance. He taught that whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love and that all can live a devout and spiritual life, for holiness is not reserved just for monks and hermits. He was held in such high respect that a Calvinist minister said "if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy than this man".

The Conversion of Saint Paul celebrates his conversion from persecuting the Christians to becoming (with Peter) their foremost leader. 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' From these words of Christ to Saul, we learn that what we do to each other we do to Christ for good or ill.

Ss Timothy and Titus were converted to Christianity by St Paul and became his companions. Two of Paul's Pastoral Letters are addressed to each of them.

For more information about **THE DAY OF THE WORD OF GOD**, go to: <https://liturgyoffice.org/News/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/>.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION is open until 15th March. Please go to <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/departments/pastoral-development/confirmation-programme> for more details.

PLEASE PRAY for Fr Jonathon Cotton O.S.B who has died and for those who are sick or housebound including Frances Fordyce, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

DURING ORDINARY TIME (WINTER), ie 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 end this Thursday (25th).

100 CLUB: The winner for week 6 is number 50, Trevor Greenwood.

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

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.

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

BIDDING PRAYERS

Priest:

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

Reader:

Jesus, you call us all to follow you. Help us to answer that call, and live our lives as you planned for us.

Lord hear us.

We pray for World leaders: that they may serve their people with honesty, making decisions for the good of all. May conflicts throughout the world get resolved soon.

Lord hear us.

We pray for fishermen and all those at sea. May they be protected from all dangers. Lord hear us.

We pray for The Church throughout the world: that those in authority may lead good examples of Jesus' teachings. May we all try to share what we have, with those who do not have enough.

Lord hear us.

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that even if we find situations difficult, we may stand up for what is right, and what we believe in, and follow Jesus' call.

Lord hear us.

Let us think about all those in need. Especially people in our parish who have lost loved ones, and are suffering in any way. We turn to Mary our Mother, as we say: *Hail Mary*.....

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.