

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time 11th February 2024 (Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 2)

**World Day of Prayer for the Sick
Day of Prayer for the Unemployed**



“Be cured”

For the Sick

All-powerful and ever-living God, the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.

(Roman Missal: For the Sick)

For the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labour.

(The Mission of St Clare)

THIS WEEK

Sat 10 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Scholastica (feast)
	SECOND COLLECTION: LEPRA		Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	John Elliott (snr)	
Sun 11 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 12 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 13 th	9.30am	Pope's intentions	Feria
Wed 14 th	9.30am	The sick of our Parish	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	
Thu 15 th	9.30am	Wilf and Paul Nicholson	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Fri 16 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday after Ash Wednesday
Sat 17 th	10.30am	EBC	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
	6.00pm	Frank Thompson	First Sunday of Lent
Sun 18 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 10 th	M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 11 th	R Conboy		B Gore		Not open
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	Collection counters	J & K Slater
Next week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 17 th	C Williamson		P Cook		Not open
Sun 18 th	B Cook		F Fordyce		Not open
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell	Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last weekend: attendance: 113, collection: £461.52 – thank you!

Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45.

We get upset and even angry in the face of sickness and suffering – especially of our loved ones.

We get angry and upset by what some would describe as a broken health service or the suffering of children in poor but all too often war-torn counties, which move us to charitable donations such as this week's retiring collection for *Lepra*.

In the bible, there are two chunky chapters on leprosy and its purification rituals in the book of Leviticus from which we have a snippet in our first reading.

It is understood that the term in the *Leprosy* Leviticus speaks of covers a wide range of skin disease and that the rituals and seemingly elaborate procedures had more to do with prudent healthcare management and the protection of the community than religion per se... hence the strict quarantine rules.

But that first reading prepares us for the encounter of a man with leprosy and Jesus in today's Gospel.

The man pleads on his knees for Jesus to heal him: *If you want to, you can cure me.*

Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him: 'of course I want to... be cured' and the man was.

Jesus *feeling sorry for him* is understood to mean much more than just that. Some propose a better translation might be '*guttled*' or '*fumed*', suggesting that Jesus, too, gets angry and upset in the presence of illness and suffering.

God could remove all sickness and suffering at a stroke and we could live for ever, but our ancestors in the persons of Adam and Eve put paid to that when a perfect relationship they had with God and the world was broken through their pride of thinking that they could do without Him.

But what was lost through Adam and Eve will be restored through Jesus Christ, the new Adam, who, in his healing ministry on earth, began its restoration as the man with leprosy found out and will continue to the end of time. (Mt 28:20)

Meanwhile, we remain angered and frustrated by the presence of so much sickness and suffering in the world, but we know that Jesus shares our anger and frustration and invites each one of us to reach out with him so that, through his grace, we may bring his healing into the world in whatever way we can.

Reflection

If there be a true way that leads to the Everlasting Kingdom, it is most certainly that of suffering, patiently endured. (*St Colette*)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are days of fasting and abstinence.

FASTING means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced.

ABSTINENCE means that we give up a particular kind of food or drink or some form of amusement. In place of abstinence, other forms of penance may be substituted eg making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Stations of the Cross, making a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, elderly or lonely and so on.

“The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year. The law of fasting binds those who have obtained their majority, until the beginning of their 60th year.” (*Canon 1252*)

FRIDAY PENANCE: The form of penance we adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form each Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. However, penance is part of the life of every Christian and the intention to do penance is of obligation.

“The days and times of penance for the Universal Church are each Friday of the full year and the season of Lent.” (*Canon 1250*)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME. The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February at 6pm in the Parish Room.

THIS WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the work of **LEPRA** as they mark the centenary of their work to study and eradicate leprosy. You can find out more about them and what they do at: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>.

Wednesday of this week is ASH WEDNESDAY – the start of Lent. There will be Mass as usual at 9.30am and again at 6.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

LENT:

Starting **next week**, on **WEDNESDAYS** we'll have an hour's quiet prayer & reflection from 6.00pm in the Parish Room.

Also from **next week**, on **FRIDAYS** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm, followed by Benediction.

Put your faith into action this Lent by connecting with your local and global community! Sign up for **CAFOD'S BIG LENT WALK** and challenge yourself to walk 200km in 40 days. You'll be joining a big team all over England, Wales and Scotland walking, raising money and helping people around the world overcome poverty. You can sign up as an individual, as a parish or a school here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

Thank you to all those who so generously agreed to organise **FOODBANK COLLECTIONS**. The first collection this year will be over the weekend of February 24th/25th. The full list of dates is on the noticeboard and the website.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION is open until **15th March**. Please go to <https://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> for more details.

PLEASE PRAY for Fr Adrian Convery OSB who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including 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: 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.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 9 is number 58, Chris Bullen.

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

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL-OCTOBER 2024: 7 nights apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. For details and to book the dates that suit you, ring 020 3239 8662 or visit www.med-irishcentre.com.

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 – Sixth Sunday of the Year – 11th February 2024

(Priest)

We can always approach God in prayer, confident that He will hear us as we make our petitions in the name of Jesus our Lord.

We pray for Pope Francis and all the leaders of our church. We pray that they faithfully interpret the word of God to guide us carefully in our actions and strengthen our faith. Lord in your mercy...

We continue to pray for all refugees, migrants and victims of war, remembering especially the people of the Middle East and Ukraine, that in this time of conflict, they may know God's presence and find security to begin to restore their former lives. Lord in your mercy...

For those who suffer the injustice of racism, we pray that all humanity may unite as one, working for harmony, fairness and peace. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for those involved in education. For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding. For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with patience and concern for their students. Lord in your mercy...

For those burdened with difficulties at home, school or work. May the Lord give them the courage, strength and faith to overcome hardship. Lord in your mercy...

As the colder weather continues, we pray for all those in our parish struggling to heat their homes, and for 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 ask Mary, our mother to help us during our daily lives. We think of her as we say, Hail Mary, full of grace...

In silence, let us make our private intentions to God our Father.

(Priest)

God our Father, we ask you to hear the prayers we bring to you. Help us to acknowledge your greatness and to serve you with grateful hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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.