

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2024

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



“This is my son, the Beloved. Listen to him”

CAFOD Lent prayer 2024: Come, follow me

Loving God, when our boat is rocked on the sea of life, by poverty, illness or disaster, you quiet the waves, calm the storm, and lead us safely to shore.

When we work hard, for our daily bread, but at the end of the day go hungry, you walk alongside us, calling, "cast out your nets", knowing there is enough for all.

When we are lost, and uncertain of how to make a change in our world, your words ring out: "Come, follow me", guiding us to new life with you.

Lead us then, Lord, to play our part in calming the storm and sharing your gifts with each other, so that all people throughout the world may look to the future with hope. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 24 th	10.30am	Pete Dowell	Saturday of Lent 1
	SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD		Second Sunday of Lent
Sun 25 th	6.00pm	Joe and Vera Proctor	
	9.30am	For the Parish	
	11.00am	Baptism: Hugo James Cross	
Mon 26 th	No Mass today		Monday of Lent 2
Tue 27 th	9.30am	Anne and Peter Chadwick	Tuesday of Lent 2
Wed 28 th	9.30am	Susan Moon	Wednesday of Lent 2
	6.00pm	Lent Reflection	
Thu 29 th	9.30am	Thelma Malone	Thursday of Lent 2
Fri 1 st March	9.30am	Holy Souls	St David (feast)
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Women's World Day of Prayer
	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction	
Sat 2 nd	10.00am	Confessions	Saturday of Lent 2
	10.30am	Ann Lumb <i>(Anointing of the sick during Mass)</i>	
	6.00pm	James Gardiner	Third Sunday of Lent
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 24 th		L Gardner		P Fawcett		P Hothersall
Sun 25 th		F Fordyce		J Kitchen		C Snape
Bidding prayers	The Music Group	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 2 nd		G Hopkinson		J Hothersall		Not open
Sun 3 rd		L Rigbye		J Slater		Not open
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick	Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend: attendance: 122, collection: £395.20 – thank you!

Readings: Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10.

The story of the sacrifice of his son Isaac by Abraham in our first reading has mixed reviews.

It has been described as one of the most brilliantly told narratives in the book of Genesis, but the question is also asked: why should we ascribe to God the kind of behaviour we would find repulsive among humanity – namely, the idea of God, after having finally granted Abraham and Sarah, in their old age, the son they had for so long prayed, then to command Abraham to sacrifice him as a test of faith.

In the event, God, in the last second 'stays' the hand of Abraham as he is about to slay him, since he had never intended to allow Abraham to go through with it, though of course, Abraham wasn't to know that.

Some see the event as a sign of the prohibition of child sacrifices still practised by neighbouring nations. (Lv 18:21 & Dt 18:10) Others see Isaac's carrying of the wood up the mountain – the intended sacrifice and his being the victim – as a 'type' of Christ who, as priest and victim, will carry the wood of the cross up another hill upon which he will be sacrificed; while yet others say that the story conveys no adequate meaning other than that it is, as the text says, a test of Abraham's faith.

While we thank God that he doesn't call upon **us** to demonstrate such tests of faith, nevertheless, our faith in a loving God is challenged with every report of the horrors that humanity inflicts upon its own members, especially when done in the name of God, to say nothing of the natural disasters and damage to the environment that bring so much suffering and death to the innocent.

But Abraham's was a faith that believed that God could somehow bring life out of death... that if somehow, through this horror, he could keep his faith, then all will be well, and all was indeed well for Abraham and for us his descendants and beneficiaries of the promises and blessings he received from God as a reward for his faithful obedience.

Nevertheless, in this and other OT stories, we may still see God as a demanding tyrant who wants nothing but total obedience from his subjects. But, as we reflected last week, we have always to put Jesus into the centre of the equation.

And when we do so, we find a God, yes, jealous for our love if that means he cannot bear the thought of losing us to anything less or other than himself. But a better term would be: a God who is *passionate* for our love and who loves us with a passion far greater than anything we could return to him or give to another.

It is with this faith in God's passionate love for us that we can face the evils and difficulties of this world, confident that he can bring life out of death, good out of bad.

In all our difficulties, as St Paul says in our second reading, we need God on our side to plead on our behalf for mercy and deliverance from the dark forces of evil that so severely test our faith.

So, to the Gospel, where Jesus leads his disciples up the mountain and, in front of them, is transfigured.

His clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah and Moses who represent the law and the prophets (essentially the OT) appeared and were talking to Jesus – and a voice speaks from a mysterious cloud: *This is my beloved, listen to him.*

Why the Transfiguration?

The preface tells us: *For after he had told the disciples of his coming death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory, to show even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.*

So then: many years before, on a mountain, a son is to be sacrificed and, many years later, *The Son* is to be sacrificed. On both occasions, the forces of darkness appeared to have prevailed over the good and innocent. But on both occasions, darkness was *transfigured* into the light of salvation: for Abraham and especially Isaac, by the saving voice of the angel and for Jesus, in the glory of his resurrection.

So, this Lent and always, let us listen for the voice, the only voice who can transfigure these wretched bodies into copies of his own glorified body. (Ph. 3: 21)

Reflection

We shall steer safely through every storm so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast and our trust fixed on God. (St Francis de Sales)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

THIS WEEK'S FEAST

St David 6th century monk and bishop of St David's who founded 10 monasteries and known as Aquaticus for he drank only water, living a life of severe austerity where plunging into freezing cold water was seen as a penitential good. He was known for his works of mercy and his monastery became a major centre for pilgrimages. Let us pray for the Welsh on their feast day.

ASK YOUR MP to support an amendment to reduce the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law. Please collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

The **CHILDREN'S BOOK BAGS** have been updated for Lent to help them learn more about this important time and more resources will be added as the season progresses. Please ensure that all resources are returned to the bags and the bags put back on the pegs at the end of Mass. Thank you.

From Frances Fordyce, Church Safeguarding Representative: SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

DBS rechecks for all parishioners that require one will now take place in autumn of this year. I apologise for any misunderstanding or confusion but originally I understood that Brindle St Joseph's was in the West Lancashire Deanery of Liverpool. We are in fact in Lancashire Deanery and the recheck timetable is November 2024-February 2025. This means that towards the end of this year I will be contacting you to provide verification for the recheck audit. In the meantime I and Julie Grogan-Ainsworth will be making sure that all the current paperwork is up to date. It may mean that you have to sign a written agreement form and be provided with a code of conduct and role description. If this is so we will contact you. Thank you for all you do.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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*)

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL – your donations will help hardworking people like James, the fisherman in Liberia, with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. You can donate to the appeal using one of the envelopes from the back of church. You can put cash in the envelope and hand it in with the collection or put a cheque in and send it directly to CAFOD. Alternatively, you can give online at cafod.org.uk or via your mobile using the QR code which will also be at the back of church. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

LENT: On **WEDNESDAYS** we'll have an hour's quiet prayer & reflection from 6.00pm in the Parish Room and 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/>.

The first **FOODBANK COLLECTION** of year is **THIS WEEKEND**.

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

DURING LENT WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 11 is number 56, Frances and Duncan Fordyce. The next block of 10 weeks starts **THIS WEEKEND so subs are due** unless you've already paid for the full year.

Bidding Prayers – 2nd Sunday in Lent – 25th February 2024

Priest: As we continue on our Lenten journey, we make our petitions to Our Lord and ask Him to hear and answer our prayers.

Reader: We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Please give him the wisdom to continue to inspire other leaders of the church to guide us carefully in our faith and bring us closer to you. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all victims of hostilities. May authorities see a way to reach a peaceful settlement before any more people are injured or killed. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for those who mourn, especially those in our parish who have lost loved ones. May they be comforted by a belief in a loving God and supported in their lives by our community. Lord in your mercy...

We pray that we will all appreciate the great gift of life with the gradual approaching of a new spring. Lord in your mercy...

Help us, Lord, to take the opportunity Lent affords us to meditate upon the mystery of Christ both in scripture and in the situations in which we find ourselves. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray to Our Blessed Lady in the sure knowledge that she will answer our prayers as we say together: Hail Mary...

In the privacy of our hearts, let us place our private intentions before God our Father.

Priest: Just as Abraham trusted the word of God, we too trust that He will listen to these prayers which we make in the name of Jesus Christ, His son, 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.