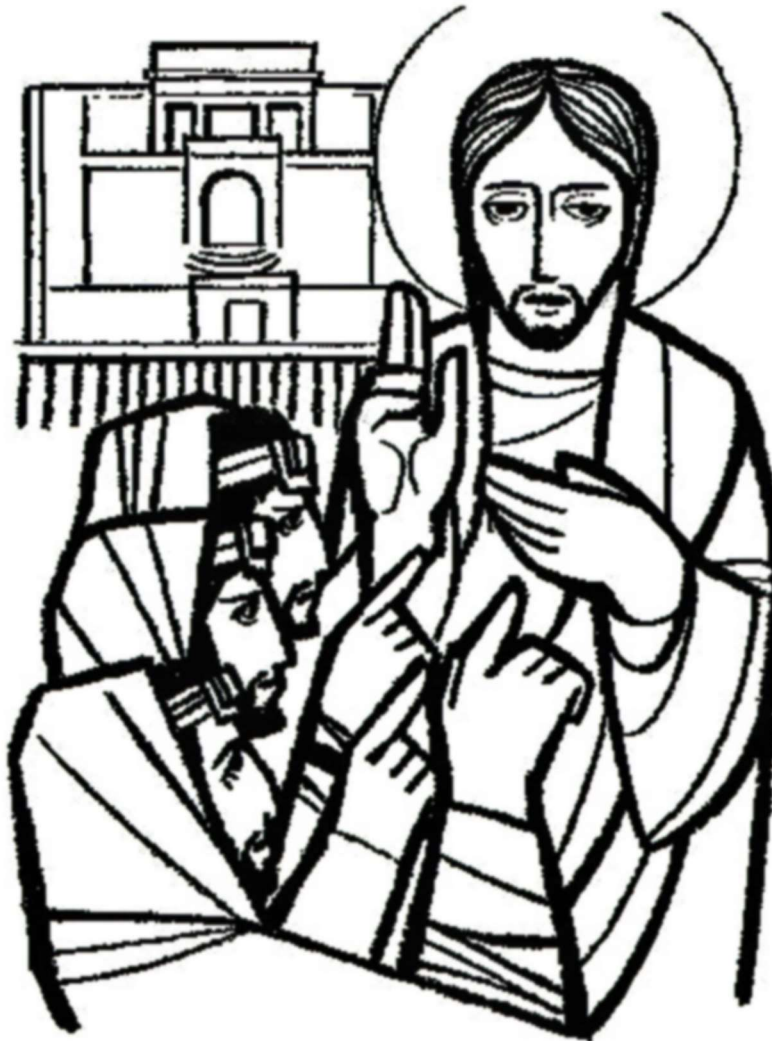


BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Third Sunday of Lent 3rd March 2024

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



“Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up”

CAFOD Lent prayer: He heals the broken-hearted

“He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)

God of all wholeness, heal our hearts of all that prevents us responding to our sisters and brothers excluded by poverty and prevented from living a full and healthy life.

This Lent may we: implore justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving.

Send your life-giving power to revive the weary, restore the broken and renew the face of the earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK

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	
Mon 4 th	No Mass today		Monday of Lent 3
Tue 5 th	9.30am	Richard, Monica and John Reid	Tuesday of Lent 3
Wed 6 th	9.30am	Monica Chatburn	Wednesday of Lent 3
	6.00pm	Lent Reflection	
Thu 7 th	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	Thursday of Lent 3
Fri 8 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Lent 3
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction	
Sat 9 th	10.30am	EBC	Saturday of Lent 3
	SECOND COLLECTION: LENTEN ALMS		Fourth Sunday of Lent
	6.00pm	Bob Moffatt	
Sun 10 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 2 nd		L Gardner		P Fawcett		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	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 9 th		G Kellett		J Hothersall		Not open
Sun 10 th		K Slater		L Rigbye		Not open
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	

Last weekend: attendance: 120, collection: £361.10 – thank you!

Readings: Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25.

Jesus Christ needs to be at the centre of our hearts and minds and at the centre of our readings especially when trying to understand the *OT* as we have tried to see over the last two weeks and this week is no exception.

In today's first reading from *Exodus*, we have the ten commandments but how can we place Jesus at the centre of them?

The ten commandments, we are told by some commentators, should not be confused with the numerous other rules and regulations for living and worship. (613 of them they tell us)

Instead, they have been described as *the most basic statement possible for the conditions needed for a relationship with God.*

As we can see: the first three are about the love of God and of his name to the exclusion of anything else and the remainder are about honour and respect for all especially family and neighbour.

The Jerusalem Temple became the focus of the love and worship of God, as commanded by the ten commandments, through animal sacrifices and prayer.

And this is where we find Jesus in today's gospel.

In the other gospels, we find him in the temple just before his arrest, passion and death that will follow – indeed, for them, the driving out of the people trading in the temple was the event that provoked the authorities to conspire against him and arrest him.

For John, what finally provoked his arrest was the raising of Lazarus (Jn 11: 45ff) not the expulsions from the temple, and it is believed that John places the temple event at the start of his gospel because the temple event lays out and summarises his gospel proclamation.

How does he do this?

John's gospel has Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem, angrily driving out the money changers, the sheep, cattle and pigeon-sellers telling them to take it all out and stop turning his Father's house into a market.

But the important point is that Jesus refers to the temple as *My Father's House*. (The other gospels have just *my house* and Mark adds *for my house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples...* quoting the prophet *Isaiah*. (56: 7)

And it was right there in the outer court, the only place where foreign pilgrims who had travelled miles, were allowed to pray, that the money changers and the rest were doing business and no doubt swindling them out of what little they had too.

So, no wonder Jesus was so upset and drives them out.

The Jews (no less angry since they made money from the market) ask Jesus by what sign can he justify such outrageous behaviour.

Then comes the heart of what John is trying to proclaim.

Jesus replied *Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up.*

They reply *It has taken 46 years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it in three days?*

*But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body and when Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples remembered what he had said **and they believed the scriptures and the words he had said.***

Personally, I find this all very exciting for once again, we find Jesus right at the centre of both old and new testaments: for in his own body, he fulfils the ten commandments – the first three, in his prayerful love, commitment and obedience to his Father and the remaining seven in his ministry of healing and love to all who recognise their need of him.

And St John's gospel places Jesus right at the centre as the new temple open to all who make of their lives a pilgrimage to him and, through him, to his Father.

Let us place Christ at the centre of all we think and do and may the scriptures and his words change our lives after the example of his disciples.

Reflection

All our religion is but false religion and all our virtues are mere illusions and we ourselves are only hypocrites in the sight of God if we do not have universal charity for everyone – for the good and for the bad, for the poor and for the rich... and for all who do us harm as much as for those who do us good. (St John Vianney)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Hugo James Cross who was baptised last Sunday.

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** for Lenten Alms.

The **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY** collection has so far raised a total of £260, which will be put to good use improving the lot of some of our neighbours in the developing world. A very generous response – thank you!

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK: It's not too late to sign up for this, and aim to cover 200km as an individual or a team during the course of Lent. You can sign up at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/about>. Alternatively, maybe sponsor Christine and Keith Snape via <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/christine-and-keiths-big-lent-walk> or in good old-fashioned cash!

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.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH – 10th-18th MARCH: Each year Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph with a special Novena of prayers and Masses. We are invited to join them by praying the Novena and/or sending your petitions which will be placed at the altar at St Joseph's, Mill Hill, and remembered during the Masses. A few copies of Novena prayers and petition slips are available at the back of church. There is more information at: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena. The Novena Masses will be available to view via the Mill Hill website.

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.

ACT NOW TO STOP DIY ABORTION UP TO BIRTH: Diana Johnson MP has tabled an amendment (New Clause 1) to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, which is coming up for Report stage in Parliament in early March. This amendment seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would commit no offence. This is dangerous for women and lethal for unborn babies. Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose this extreme and barbaric proposal. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use webtool at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>. Please pray for the defeat of this amendment, for protection of unborn babies, and help and comfort for mothers in need.

LENT: On **WEDNESDAYS** we have an hour's quiet prayer & reflection from 6.00pm in the Parish Room and on **FRIDAYS** there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm, followed by Benediction.

Thank you for last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION** which resulted in an estate-car-full of food and provisions which was gratefully received by the Salvation Army in Preston. The next one will be over the weekend of 20th/21st April.

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 12 is number 57, Christine and Keith Snape. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **SUBS ARE DUE** unless you've already paid for the full year.

Bidding Prayers 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Priest: Let us turn to our Father in Heaven for all our needs

Reader: With its ever-changing subjective values, the world is in need of a moral compass: may the Church, the Community of Faith, guided by the Holy Spirit and grounded in the love of Christ, be that compass. Lord hear us...

We pray that our society promotes a culture that values life and that we seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death. Lord hear us...

We know that peace will ultimately come in the next world, but we continue to pray for peace in this world too. Lord hear us...

For the sick, the housebound, the depressed bereaved and lonely - may they feel the presence of Jesus, who suffers with them. Lord hear us...

Let us pray for deepening love of the scriptures so that we may deepen our love of Christ. Lord hear us...

We unite our prayers with those of our Heavenly Mother Mary as together we say... Hail Mary...

And now for a moment of silent prayer.

Priest: Father, deepen our sense of your presence among us as we offer these prayers 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.