

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Fifth Sunday of Easter 28th April 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 1)



“I am the true vine”

Creator God, because of your abundant love you chose to bring light and order into the formless void, to create a world of unsurpassed beauty and you saw that it was good. We ask that you continue to recreate the world with that same attentive love, to bring light into today's ever-increasing chaos and darkness where we have failed to be stewards and carers of your creation. Replenish our hearts so that we too can renew the face of the earth. Amen.

(Kieran O'Brien/CAFOD)

THIS WEEK

Sat 27 th	10.30am	Pope's intentions	Saturday of Easter 4
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sun 28 th	9.30am	Rita Gorrell	
	11.00am	Baptism: Joshua Michael Embery	
Mon 29 th	No Mass today		St Catherine of Siena (feast)
Tue 30 th	9.30am	For survivors of sexual abuse	Tuesday of Easter 5
Wed 1 st May	9.30am	The staff and pupils of our primary school	St Joseph the Worker (feast)
Thu 2 nd	9.30am	Ann Lumb	St Athanasius (memorial)
Fri 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Souls	Ss Philip and James (feast)
Sat 4 th	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	The English Martyrs (feast)
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (<i>Anointing of the sick during Mass</i>)	
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sun 5 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 27 th		C Williamson		P Fawcett		L Gardner	
Sun 28 th		F Fordyce		L Rigbye		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	C & K Snape		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 4 th		L Gardner		P Cook		Not open	
Sun 5 th		K Slater		S Schofield		Not open	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen		

Last weekend: attendance: Saturday: not recorded, Sunday: 69, collection: £411.08 – thank you!

Readings: Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth ... and our conscience be quietened in his presence.

In our best efforts to live the Christian life in love, how can we **know** that we are doing God's will and not our own?

Such a question may sound odd but people, and certainly Christians, can do good things but for the wrong reasons, just as one could be on the right road but for the wrong reasons as CS Lewis wrote somewhere.

For example, it is good to pray; but not as some of the Pharisees did, standing on the street corners to impress people with their show of piety.

Likewise, it is good to care for people; but better if the reason is not to satisfy our own need for affirmation, praise or for the satisfaction of our own neediness ... one might think of Dicken's sycophantic *Uriah Heap* and his *I'm ever so humble* mantra in *David Copperfield*.

We may all be guilty of such motive for our *good* actions, but how can we **know** that our love is real, alive and active, not just talk ... and if our conscience accuses us, how can we quieten it?

The answer is, of course, simpler in the saying than in the doing for all of us, but Jesus gives us many clues: for example, in Matthew's Gospel where he says that where your treasure is, there also will be your heart. (6:21)

That word *heart* is translated as *conscience* in the text we are reflecting upon (2nd reading) perhaps because it reflects its deeper dynamic ie it is what flows out of the heart that makes a person good or bad, (Lk 6:45) and this moves us into the realm of conscience.

Be that as it may, such a *dynamic* of conscience and heart must flow into our actions which we know speak louder than words.

And what should inform that *dynamic* in the centre of our heart can be none other than the name of Jesus Christ, as St John's letter tells us: whose name, along with his Spirit, will inform all our actions.

Thus, rooted in Christ the vine, I am rooted in his Father, the vinedresser and so my love becomes more than mere words, but something alive and active because I am living out the greatest commandment as Jesus gave it which is to love God with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my mind – and my neighbour as myself.

Reflection

The things that we love tell us what we are. (St Thomas Aquinas)

They alone love the Creator perfectly who manifest a pure love for their neighbour. (St Bede)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's Saints

Catherine of Siena was an Italian mystic and pious laywoman who engaged in papal and Italian politics through extensive letter-writing and advocacy. Canonized in 1461, she is revered as a saint and as a Doctor of the Church due to her extensive theological authorship.

St Joseph the worker: To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955.

St Athanasius (296-373) Bishop of Alexandria where he was born. He fought the Arian heresy that did not believe in the Son as being co-equal with the Father and attended the Council of Nicaea where he helped to clarify the teachings as expressed in the Nicene Creed. He suffered much opposition and spent 17 years in exile. He wrote many outstanding works and is known as the Father of Orthodoxy.

Philip of Bethsaida was originally a disciple of John the Baptist before following our Lord and **James**, son of Alphaeus who was condemned by the Sanhedrin and stoned in AD 62.

The English Martyrs (1535-1679) remembers the hundreds from all walks of life, martyred during the persecution of the English Reformation – **St Edmund Arrowsmith** being among them.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY and we will say a decade after weekday Masses throughout the month.

NEXT THURSDAY (9th May) is the Solemnity of the Ascension, a Holyday of Obligation. There will be Mass at **6.00pm on Wednesday** and **9.30am on Thursday**.

Also **NEXT THURSDAY**, there will be a **Sacramental Preparation Programme** meeting at 6.00pm.

Thank you for last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION**. The next one will be over the weekend of 15th/16th June.

GRAVEYARD: As the growing season begins, please could we avoid planting shrubs or any other plants or placing any items in front of graves which might prohibit the passing of a lawn mower and to remember with thanks our volunteers who try to keep the graveyard in good order for you.

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

DURING EASTER we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church; Human Work; Vocations; Survivors of Abuse; The Right Use of the Media; the Church.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 20 is number 79, Sue Biggerstaffe. The next block of 10 weeks starts **next weekend** when subs are due unless you've paid for the full year.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS: If you or someone you know would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplain while in hospital, please ring 01257 262713 (for Chorley hospital) or 01772 719604 (for Preston). For St Catherine's Hospice, contact Brownedge St Mary's on 01772 335168.

In the unlikely event of the need to evacuate church for any reason, the **ASSEMBLY POINT** is in Chapel Fold, by the statue of St Joseph.

The **KEY FOR THE TOILETS** is available at the back of church during Mass.

Can **PARKING** in front of the church be left for those who need it, please?

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

'The May the Fourth be with You Tour' **IN THE LIVING ROOM** gig next Saturday May 4th at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. £5.00 entry - all proceeds to charity. Bring your own tipple.

Leeds Male Voice Choir will perform at **BROWNEDGE ST MARY'S** on Saturday 18th May at 2.00pm – entry by donation. See the poster on the noticeboard for more details.

ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK AND CO MAYO, 16th June. £899pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Bidding prayers for the 5th Sunday of Easter Year B, 28th April 2024

Priest: We pray that our leaders act, like the vinedresser, for the good of all.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis, may he tend to us like a vine so we can remain in Christ. Lord hear us...

We pray that we all play our part in the workings of the parish to make it a healthy and fruitful part of the community, both religious and secular. Lord hear us...

We pray for all the workers in the community that are striving to keep us healthy and safe. Lord hear us...

For all in our parish especially those who are sick, the elderly, the housebound and the bereaved. May we continue to offer help, support and prayers. Lord hear us...

We ask Mary our Mother to unite these prayers with her own as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us now pause to pray for our own intentions.

Priest: Let us all endeavour to bear fruit for the glory of God the Father, so we can be true disciples. We make these prayers through Jesus Christ, your 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.