

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Houghton, PR5 0DE
Parish Priest: Fr Raphael Jones OSB
Telephone: 01254 852026 – Mobile (emergency) 07944 255541
Email: pp@brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Website: www.brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Saints Peter and Paul 30th June 2024

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



“You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church”

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, that, as through them you gave your Church the foundations of her heavenly office, so through them you may help her to eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

(Collect from the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul)

THIS WEEK

Sat 29 th	10.30am	Finbar Kealy OSB	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: PETER'S PENCE		Saints Peter and Paul
	6.00pm	Peace in the world	
Sun 30 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 1 st July	No Mass today		Feria (week 13)
Tue 2 nd	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	Feria
Wed 3 rd	9.30am	EBC	St Thomas the Apostle (feast)
Thu 4 th	9.30am	Finbar Kealy OSB	Feria
Fri 5 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 6 th	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	BVM
	10.30am	Pope's intentions (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 7 th	9.30am	Maureen Spencer	

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

This week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 29th	G Hopkinson	L Gardner	L Lomax
Sun 30th	C Snape	M Gardner	B Gore
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen
			Collection counters
			J & K Slater
Next week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 6th	L Lomax	L Gardner	Not open
Sun 7th	K Snape	B Gore	Not open
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape
			Collection counters
			C & K Snape

Last weekend: attendance: 115, collection: £377.21 – thank you!

Readings: Acts 12:1-11, Timothy 4:6-8,17-18, Matthew 16:13-19.

Today's feast is about two colossal pillars upon whose shoulders the church has stood for over two thousand years.

Throughout the Bible, we see God choosing the most unlikely people to carry out his will on earth and among the most unlikely were St Peter and St Paul.

In Luke's Gospel, after netting a huge catch of fish on Jesus' instructions, Peter recognizes something very holy in Jesus and falling to his knees, begs Jesus to leave him for *I am a sinful man*. But Jesus says up!... and I will make you a fisher of men.

Peter tries to walk on water but his faith fails him and has to be rescued by Jesus: 'Lord, save me' he cries and Jesus reaches out and holds him. 'Man of little faith' he says, 'why did you doubt'.

Also, we remember how, after Jesus' arrest, Peter three times denied knowing him and how Jesus gives him a second chance to affirm him which he does, three times.

As for the unlikely calling of St Paul: who would have thought that this chief agent of the Jewish high priest for the suppression of those early Christians, described in *Acts* as *still breathing out threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples*, would, by God's grace, become Christianity's chief agent for its spread beyond the Jewish nation to the non-Jews or gentiles – so headstrong, combative, argumentative to the point of falling out with his co-workers in Christ. (*Acts 15:30*)

Both Peter and Paul were flawed characters.

In today's first reading, we find poor Peter, his old life of relative calm on the lake turned upside down by his encounter with Jesus, (who has now returned to his Father in heaven) bamboozled and in a daze by another divine encounter as angelic forces release him from prison where he had been incarcerated for being a Christian – by the power of that *unremitting* prayer? It would seem that God had more work for him to do on earth before he was to take him to himself in martyrdom – for it is for our reunion with God in heaven that all prayer is, in the end, directed.

In his letter to Timothy, St Paul could be speaking for St Peter when he says: *The Lord stood by me and gave me power...* so that he could spread the message of God's love to the wider non-Jewish world; while for Peter, his calling was to spread the message of God's love to the Jews; but both Peter and Paul realized that *anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.* (Acts 10: 35)

Jesus commissions his eleven disciples to teach what he has taught them (Mt 28:20) and to retain or forgive sins, (Jn 20:22-23) but it is Jesus' specific commission to Peter with reference to the keys and of Peter being a rock and foundation upon which the church would be built, that puts Peter, as some might say, the first among equals.

Tradition has them both being martyred in Rome during the Christian persecutions of the emperor Nero and so Rome becomes the centre of the global and universal Christian church.

The feast of Saints Peter and Paul teaches us many things, especially about perseverance in faith and the need to keep our eyes focused firmly on Jesus if we are to remain above the forces that would suck us under and into a turbulent sea of despair.

But perhaps the most important lesson to take away from this feast is that vulnerability and weakness, so easily scorned by the world, is not an issue for God as we saw in his choice of Saints Peter and Paul.

But the question he posed to Peter he poses to us too: *who do you say I am?*

It is a question he asks of us every day of our lives, and our present and future happiness depends upon our answer.

With prayers,

Fr Raphael

This week's commemoration

Saint Thomas the Apostle whose doubt provoked the risen Lord to say 'Blessed are they who have not seen but yet believe' – an encouragement to us all.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Freya, Lucas, Matilda, Jack and Joseph** who were confirmed last Wednesday evening at St Joseph's, Harper Lane, Chorley.

GENERAL ELECTION: CAFOD and the SVP ask for your help to answer Pope Francis' call to support the most vulnerable by contacting your parliamentary candidates before the General Election. They've made it easy – just follow this link on CAFOD's website and you can use the prepared email or amend it, and when you send it, it will reach all your candidates: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/150354/action/1>. Cardinal Nichols and the Bishops Conference are urging us to voice our support for the most vulnerable and the environment too.

Please take great care while the **SCAFFOLDING** is in place around the church. We apologise for any inconvenience that this essential maintenance may be causing.

MISSALETTES FOR SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME can be used on ferial days of the same week – the readings, psalm and Gospel acclamation will be different but the antiphons and prayers are the same.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION for Peter's Pence provides essential support for the Holy See's activities and helps Pope Francis assist the victims of wars, oppression and natural disaster around the world.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Michael Bolton, Isaac Wilson, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 29 is number 61, John Dowse.

The **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS** have been updated. Each bag is now themed around certain bible tales or topics and contains a variety of resources including soft toys, finger puppets, colouring sheets and puzzles to help the children learn more about their faith. We hope that these bags will be developed as more resources are found and that they will be enjoyed. We ask that they are shown the same care as has gone into them – thank you!

DURING ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER) ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

There will be a meeting to establish a new Preston Branch of the **SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN** this Saturday (6th July) at 1.00pm at the Preston SPUC Office which is at Unit 10, Lockside Office Park, Lockside Road, Preston, PR2 2YS. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. For further details, contact Terry Graham, SPUC Northern Development Officer on 07549068226 or by email at terrygraham@spuc.org.uk.

Bidding Prayers – Saints Peter and Paul 2024

(Priest) This weekend, as we thank God for Saint Peter and Saint Paul, let us pray that they may continue to inspire the Church in its mission and care, as we pray for the needs of the world.

We pray that Pope Francis, successor to the apostle Peter, will be filled with grace as he continues to lead and serve all God's people with loving care and humility in a world faced with sadness and conflict. Lord in your mercy

With the General Election this week let us pray for all those elected that they may govern with integrity and concern for all elements of our society and the wider world. Lord in your mercy

Let us pray for all those who are victims of violence and greed, that they may find justice and peace. May the Lord bless all those who work to help them. Lord in your mercy

We give thanks for all who lovingly look after those in the nursing homes, hospitals, nurseries and prisons, and we pray for all who need such care and rely on the help of others. Lord in your mercy

We pray that we do not forget the needs of those who have find life so difficult in these times of financial hardship and find ways to help them if we can. Lord in your mercy

We pray for the people of St Joseph's, especially our priest, teachers, parents and all those who work in the parish community, as well as those who are sick, housebound or bereaved. Lord in your mercy

Let us join our prayers with the prayers of Our Blessed Lady. Hail Mary...

We remember in silence our own personal intentions.

(Priest) Merciful Father, protect us during this week and through all our lives, and hear these prayers which we make 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.