

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024 7th July 2024

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



“A prophet is only despised in his own country”

God of grace and powerful weakness, at times your prophets were ignored, rejected, belittled, and unwelcome. Trusting that we, too, are called to be prophets, fill us with your Spirit, and support us by your gentle hands, that we may persevere in speaking your word and living our faith. Amen.

THIS WEEK

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	
	11.00am	Baptism: Willow Rigby	
Mon 8 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 9 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Feria
Wed 10 th	9.30am	Hilda Martindale	Feria
Thu 11 th	9.30am	Vocations to the religious life	St Benedict (feast)
Fri 12 th	10.00am	Primary School leavers	Feria
Sat 13 th	10.30am	The sick and housebound of the Parish	BVM
	6.00pm	Rose Moxham	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 14 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 6 th		L Gardner		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 7 th		K Snape		B Gore		Not open
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	C & K Snape	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 13 th		M Russell		J Hothersall		Not open
Sun 14 th		R Conboy		F Fordyce		Not open
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell	Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend: attendance: 109, collection: £327.14, Peter's Pence: £62.86 – thank you!

Readings: Ezekiel 2:2-5, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Mark 6:1-6

When Mary first appeared to the children of Medjugorje, they ran towards where she stood on a hilltop with no regard to the rocky, uneven and thorn-strewn terrain which should have lacerated their legs or broken ankles, yet they approached her without injury because their eyes were totally fixed on her, the object of their desire, not on the ground.

In today's second reading, St Paul shares with us a deep personal problem which he describes as a thorn in his flesh.

Like the children of Medjugorje, he too has been privileged to receive visions and revelations, but sees this affliction as a preventative against pride but, like the children, he does not take his eyes off the object of his desire, Jesus Christ.

Both St Paul and the children look above and beyond the obstacles that would cause them to stumble and so should we,

The worst thing to say to a child learning how to ride a bike is 'Whatever you do don't hit the tree! avoid that rock!' for you can almost guarantee they will hit it and it will truly be an obstacle to their progress.

So it is with you and me: we all have afflictions of one sort or another, addictions whatever they are and other obstacles that might get in the way of our journey toward God who is the object of our desire.

But the devil will tell us to keep our eyes down, to focus on our problems.

And so, we fall or trip again and again, getting nowhere the more we focus on the obstacle or affliction.

For the devil speaks to us in half-truths, which is why he is so beguiling. He tells us that we cannot be worthy of God's love unless we **first** overcome our affliction and make ourselves worthy.

But he is wrong, and at every Mass we remind ourselves of this when we say *Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

It is the Lord, not ourselves who makes us worthy; not by us sitting back and doing nothing as if waiting for some divine *magic* to change us, but by focussing more intently upon him in prayer, in the Mass and in our reconciliation with him through confession.

Today, it has become quite normal for even regular church-goers to say: 'I don't need to go to confession because God loves me – he knows that I am sorry for my sins, I don't need the church or a priest to tell me whether I am forgiven'.

Yes we do!

Jesus commanded Peter and the apostles to *go, baptise and teach all that I have taught you; whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, whose sins you retain, they are retained.*

What else might we do to keep our eyes focussed on God?

Make time to sit down with a bible, Google articles of faith, seek out the lives of the saints or some other holy reading.

Grab hold of the *Day by Day* and *Faith Alive* booklets from the back of the church, so rich in content for the deepening of our faith but half of which end up in the recycling bin.

If done prayerfully, these are the kinds of things that will help us to keep our eyes focused upon **Truth**.

Finally, following the example of the children of Medjugorje, let us lift our eyes from the obstacles that can so easily bring us down, and raise them to the only one who has the answer to our deepest and most personal problems, Jesus Christ, who came to heal the sick and sit with sinners but who also calls them to repentance.

Reflections:

Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good (holy) reading is necessary to the life of the soul. (St John XXIII)

I have been all things unholy.

If God can work through me, He can work through anyone. (St Francis of Assisi)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's feast

St Benedict (c480-550)

Born in Norcia, Italy and educated in Rome. He lived a solitary life in a cave in Subiaco for three years. Later he organised a form of monastic life in twelve monasteries. The monks who joined him devoted themselves to work and prayer. In the abbey of Monte Cassino which he founded, he wrote his Rule. He was proclaimed Patron of Europe because of his influence in the formation of Christendom in the Middle Ages.

MASS ON FRIDAY is at **10.00am** – School Leavers' Mass. All are welcome.

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.

MISSALETES 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.

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.

SUMMER TEA AND COFFEE ROTA: Soon Children's Liturgy will be stopping for the summer holiday. Please could any parishioner help with the teas and coffees after Sunday 9:30am Mass? A rota will be at the back of church for you to sign. Many thanks. Children's Liturgy Team.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 30 is number 48, Mark Ainsworth. The next block of 10 weeks starts next weekend so **SUBS ARE DUE.**

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.

Bidding Prayers for the weekend of 6th/7th July 2024

Priest:

Heavenly father, as we lift up our eyes to you, graciously hear the prayers of your church on Earth.

Reader:

Let us pray for God's church on Earth, that she may be a true reflection of Jesus himself, and be obedient to our Father, always. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our leaders in government, that they will always seek the good of all citizens and their well-being. Lord, hear us...

We pray for children of our school as they come to the end of the school year. May they remember the things that they have received and always follow the teachings of Christ. Lord, hear us...

We pray for this parish in the uncertain times ahead. Your grace, your unmerited blessing, is sufficient for us. And because of this, we can always be confident that your will be done. Lord, hear us...

We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus to add her prayers to ours as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us pray for a moment in silence for our own needs...

Priest:

Heavenly Father, we again thank you for hearing the prayers of your saints, and we look forward to the promised blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus 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.