

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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

### EDUCATION SUNDAY



*“Ephphatha - be opened”*

Dear Lord, Thank you for the gift of Catholic education. Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever-deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them. Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our Catholic education sector: chaplains, support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and trustees. We thank them for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for all the leaders of Catholic education. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives. Thank you for our pupils and students. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school and university they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be. We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord, Amen

# THIS WEEK

Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Special intention (MS) (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	BVM
	<b>Second collection: Catholic Education Service</b>		<b>Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	6.00pm	Margaret Borman	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Rory McDonald	St Ambrose Barlow (memorial)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		St John Chrysostom (memorial)
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No 10.30am Mass</b>		The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (feast)
	<b>Second collection: Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate</b>		<b>Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	6.00pm	Denis Vizzard	
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	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 7 <sup>th</sup>		M Russell		G Hopkinson		Not open	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>		B Cook		J Kitchen		Not open	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	G Hopkinson	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	J Grogan, G Fowler	<b>Collection counters</b>	J & K Slater		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>		M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open	
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>		F Fordyce		J Slater		Not open	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	B Kellett	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	F Fordyce, C Snape	<b>Collection counters</b>	C & K Snape		

**Last weekend: attendance: 102, collection: £330.52 – thank you!**

**Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37.**

*The eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf unsealed.*

It is easy to link Isaiah's prophecy in our first reading with Jesus's healing of the man described as deaf and with a speech impediment in today's Gospel.

The way in which Jesus fulfils the prophecy makes for uncomfortable reading for the microphobe among us, by which I mean, those who would feel uncomfortable swigging out of a shared bottle or being offered a drink in an unwashed sticky glass or cup.

Because, in the healing, Jesus appears to have used his own spittle and applied it to the man's tongue and ears before looking up to heaven with a sigh and saying *ephphatha – be opened* and the man was healed.

Another detail worth noting is the region in which he healed the man: the *Decapolis Region* where the non-Jewish gentiles lived – those considered by the Jews, beyond redemption.

Perhaps James had this story in mind among other accounts of Jesus's option for the poor and outcasts, when, in our second reading, he tells the brothers not to try to combine faith in Jesus Christ with the making of distinctions between classes of people.

So, what might these textual observations teach us?

Among other things, that the God in whom we believe is not a god who remains *out there* distinct, apart, as if not wishing to contaminate itself with this mucky world.

We believe in God who, through his Son, immerses himself into the very fabric of his own creation, spittle and all, to bring his healing, his light to the world through his words and actions.

So why did he forbid the man, now healed, to spread the good news of his healing?

Because the right time for that had not yet come. The world, and especially his closest followers themselves, needed time to have their own eyes and ears opened to the suffering that had to come before his glorification, so that the full meaning of his healing work may be understood and taken to heart in faith, and that takes a lifetime for most of us.

For even now, in the light of his death, resurrection and glorification, Jesus continues to reach into to the very depths of our souls, removing all that would impede us from hearing and proclaiming the *Good News* of his love and healing presence among us.

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#### **Reflections:**

*Love and suffering are clearly linked, like the sun and the light. We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love. (St Gianna Beretta Molla)*

*The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that he, in his goodness, sends to us day after day. (ibid)*

With prayers, Fr Raphael.

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#### **This week's commemorations**

##### **St Ambrose Barlow OSB (1585-1641)**

Of a noble Catholic family of Barlow Hall, Lancs, Ambrose had conformed to the Church of England but returned to the Catholic Church and became a priest and later a monk of St Gregory's Douai, France. He returned to England and worked near Manchester and Liverpool for many years, working from Morleys Hall near Leigh.

He celebrated daily Mass and recited his Office and the Rosary. He was arrested several times over the course of years but eventually, after a stroke and many pleadings to escape, while saying Mass on Easter Sunday, he was surrounded by the Vicar of Leigh and 100 of his armed congregation, taken to Lancaster Castle and condemned to the usual gruesome death of those days. He was distinguished for his love of the poor, his wit and kindness and has been described by a contemporary as the man 'most likely to represent the spirit of Sir Thomas More'.

**St John Chrysostom (347-407)** – "Chrysostom" means "Golden mouth" – a renowned preacher and orator. In 398, as Archbishop of Constantinople, he reformed the corrupt morals of court, clergy and people.

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross** recalls three events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the dedication of churches built by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sasanian conquest of Jerusalem.

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**THIS WEEK** there is Mass on Tuesday as usual then there are no Masses until Saturday evening.

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For the next 2 weekends **FR FRANCIS BALL** of Sacred Heart, Chorley, will be covering for me during my absence. I'm sure you will make him welcome.

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This weekend we welcome back our **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** and **MUSIC** groups after their summer break.

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**THIS SUNDAY** is **Education Sunday** when we are asked to pray for and support financially by the **Second Collection** the work of the Catholic Education Service. You can find out more about what they do at: [www.catholiceducation.org.uk](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk).

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**NEXT SUNDAY** is **Evangelii Gaudium** (the joy of the Gospel) **Sunday** – formerly known as Home Mission Sunday. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on the great mandate we have been given by the Risen Lord to evangelise the whole world. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" the Lord commissions, as we hear in Matthew 28:19. There will be a **Second Collection** to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate.

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**READERS' TRAINING** organised by the Archdiocese Liturgy Commission on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at St Mary's Community Centre, Leyland, PR25 1PD. 10.00am to 1.00pm followed by lunch. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided. For information or to book your place, please email: [pa.stmaryleyland@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:pa.stmaryleyland@rcaol.org.uk).

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**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.

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**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.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 39 is number 35, Lesley Gardner.

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**During Ordinary Time (Autumn)** ie from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

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**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 Browndedge St Mary's on 01772 335168.

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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.

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

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### **Bidding Prayers for the weekend of 7/8<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, we, your people, have issues which concern us. Graciously hear our prayers which we ask in Jesus' name.

**Reader:** We pray for your church on Earth. That her leaders would share your love for your people, without making distinctions between different classes. That the love given from your church is the same, irrespective of how a person presents themselves. Lord, hear us...

We pray for peace in our troubled times, that we may know **your** peace, which passes all understanding, and that we will have the strength to stand up for Jesus when our faith is threatened. Lord, hear us...

We pray for this nation of ours and its leaders, that they will govern by the authority you have given them, following your ways and not man's. Lord, hear us...

We also pray for this parish, that you may help us prosper in word and deed. Lord, hear us...

**Priest:** Almighty God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, and trust in your unconditional love for us. 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.