

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th November 2024

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

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR



“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory”

O God, defender of the poor and oppressed, help us to hear their cries and come to their aid. Teach us to see with your eyes their tremendous dignity and to care for them as you care. Let us see in them your face, that through our solidarity with them they may experience your compassion, concern and love.

THIS WEEK

Sat 16 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Sun 17 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 18 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 19 th	9.30am	Teresa and Alan Little	Feria
Wed 20 th	9.30am	Maureen Spencer	Feria
Thu 21 st	9.30am	Gillian Brown (who is ill)	The Presentation of the BVM (memorial)
Fri 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Cecilia (memorial)
Sat 23 rd	10.30am	Deceased of the Phelan family	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: 'ANIMATE' YOUTH SERVICE		Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
	6.00pm	Ann Lumb	
Sun 24 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 16 th		C Williamson		G Hopkinson		L Gardner	
Sun 17 th		K Snape		S Schofield		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape		Collection counters	J & K Slater	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 23 rd		G Hopkinson		L Gardner		P Hothersall	
Sun 24 th		R Conboy		M Gardner		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	C & K Snape	

Last weekend's collection: £399.82 – thank you!

Readings: Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14,18, Mark 13:24-32.

As we move toward the end of the liturgical year and to the *advent* of the coming of Jesus Christ which we celebrate at Christmas, the liturgy also reminds us of his second coming at the end of times in the apocalyptic language of the prophet Daniel in our first reading and our Lord's in the Gospel: *at that time, (the angel) Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people ... a time of great distress unparalleled* and it goes on to speak of divine judgement ... of those who lie sleeping but who will awake to everlasting life and those who, in their shame, will be condemned to everlasting disgrace.

It might be tempting to say: well, that's the Old Testament, the New Testament is about Jesus' love and forgiveness of everyone.

True, but he doesn't force people to follow him or seek his forgiveness and he reflects this in his teachings, such as the sheep who will be saved and the goats who will not, the rich man tortured in the heat for ignoring the poor man Lazarus now resting in the arms of Abraham, to name two among many examples of divine judgment on the free choices we make in Jesus' teachings.

In today's snippet, he speaks of the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory and who will send his angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

As we look about us and see huge upheavals: migration, the disastrous effects of a changing climate, people whom some wouldn't trust to run a firework display, running or about to run countries with the greatest nuclear firepower the world has ever known ... all of this and more, may lead us to despair that these must be the signs of the *end of times* that Jesus speaks of.

But such signs have been with us in every generation in one form or another – the book of Daniel, for example, is responding to a horrendous time of persecution and the threat for the Jews of being wiped out under the tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes some 160 years before Christ and in the book of Esther, they faced a similar plight, and the bible is not unfamiliar with plagues, famines and the rest.

However, Jesus says of the end times: *as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; none but the Father.*

What these calamities, natural or man-made, might serve to remind us is of the precariousness of life for us as individuals and as a collective humanity – just look at the power of nature in the floods of Spain, the devastation of recent hurricanes and what earthquakes and drought can do to a nation – and that is before humanity's contribution.

So, what must we do then – the people ask John the Baptist in our Gospel reading on 3rd Sunday of Advent.

We will hear his answer to them on the day, but for us now, to deepen our awareness of God's presence in the world and his love for each one of us.

How might we do this?

Through **prayer**, for God not only wants a relationship of love with us, he wants dialogue with us too, as Jesus taught us when he gave us the *Our Father*.

Penance: as we have reflected above: we cannot assume that just because of God's love for everyone, there will be no consequences to how we live our lives. Jesus tells us, there will be judgement. In penance, we seek his mercy and forgiveness allowing him to recreate us through his sanctifying grace and give us a new start.

Acts of Charity: we all know of people towards whom we can extend our love and charity, not just by putting what we can afford to lose into an envelope or box for some remote, needy person, but people under our very nose.

Make efforts to **improve our understanding of God's love for us** by looking at the numerous podcasts and talks on the internet from reliable broadcasters like Bishop Robert Barron and his *Word on Fire* podcasts or Fr Mike Schmitz and his *Ascension Presents* podcasts (if you can cope with his gushing enthusiasm) and there is *Maria Radio* run by the Dominicans in this country and the Magisterium AI of which I have spoken before.

There are various devotions going on in other churches, if not here, that we could attend during Advent.

Finally, please do not forget the *Day by Day* and *Faith Alive* publications at the back of the church which, between them, give the daily Mass readings and a commentary and reflection on them.

In the past, our understanding of God was preached to us from the pulpit and the quality of that understanding was, in no small measure, down to the preacher.

Now, we can all access any level of understanding that we could wish about God from the internet instantly. If we can order our groceries and what-not over the internet, then we can also order, so to speak, a deeper understanding of the faith, it just requires effort.

But perhaps the best way to understand God's love for us and what he asks of us, may be no more than to read the bible and pray for understanding.

Reflections

Hold prayer in high esteem for it is the foundation of all the virtues and the source of all the grace needed to sanctify ourselves and to discharge the duties of our employment. (St Jean-Baptiste de la Salle)

Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. We must always remember this. The actual words matter less. (St John XXIII)

All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. (2 Timothy 3:16)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Presentation of Our Lady celebrates Mary's dedication to God throughout her life springing from her Immaculate Conception. Her feast also commemorates the dedication of the Basilica of St Mary built next to the Temple in Jerusalem to honour that memory.

St Cecilia 3rd cent. According to a 5th cent legend, she was betrothed to a pagan but converted him and his brother to Christianity but she retained her virginity being, as she saw it, betrothed only to God. While the organ played at her wedding feast, she sung in her heart to the Lord "that my heart remain unsullied so that I be not confounded". Both her husband and brother were martyred, whose bodies she buried before being martyred herself.

At the foundation of the Academy of Music in Rome in 1584, St Cecilia was chosen as its patroness.

THIS SUNDAY is the Day of Prayer for the Poor. Pope Francis' message for this day can be found in the "Downloads" section of our website.

NEXT SUNDAY is Youth Sunday when we are asked to support by prayer and via the **SECOND COLLECTION** the work of Animate, the Archdiocesan Youth Service. There is more information about their work at: <https://www.animateyouth.org/>.

The **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** will meet with Julia Brooke, the Abbot's PA, this Wednesday afternoon when we will hopefully be able to get an idea as to how the handover of the Parish to the Archdiocese will progress and be managed. If you have any concerns or questions that you would like raising, please get in contact with any of the Committee members – their names are on the noticeboard.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS Following long-standing Church custom, there will be a Mass Intention box for the departed in front of the altar throughout November. Please place the intention and donation into the box and Holy Mass will be said for them each week throughout the month. **Please label as "November Intention" on the envelope to distinguish from a Mass intention.** Donations can also be posted through the presbytery letterbox if that is more convenient for you. Thank you.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open every weekend until Christmas.

PLEASE PRAY for Paul Thornton (formerly of the Straits) and Marie Spicer who have died, for those who are sick or housebound including Ray Jackson, 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 49 is number 76, Brian Doran.

BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY – limited places available. Open 8.30am-3.30pm. 15 & 30 hour government funding for 3 & 4 year olds accepted. All local primary schools served. Contact: 07956242409 or email nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk.

EARLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Red Admiral Music Academy Brass Band are to give an early Christmas concert on next Sunday, 24th November, from 2.00pm until 4.30pm in St Chad's Church, Town Lane, Whittle-le-Woods, PR6 8AJ. Tickets are £10 each for adults, no charge for children, and includes light refreshments. The tickets can be reserved from Angela Derbyshire 07761 983041 or Ann Billington 07708 992621.

Bidding Prayers for 33rd Sunday of the Year – (World Day of the Poor) – 17th November 2024

(Priest) The Lord asks us to believe that what we ask for in prayer, it shall be given to us and so we have the courage to put our own needs to Him.

(Reader) Lord, we pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all the bishops and priests of your church that they may exercise their ministry with true consideration and understanding. Lord in your mercy

On this world day of the poor, we pray that leaders use their power and influence to protect the poor and make decisions that will ease their financial burden. Lord in your mercy

For all refugees, migrants and victims of war, we pray that they may find security, be restored to dignity and live in harmony. Lord in your mercy

We pray for the people of St Joseph's. Please help us to listen to the word of God and put it into practice, showing particular concern and tenderness towards the poor and the vulnerable. Lord in your mercy

We pray for the bereaved, whether their loss was recent or many years ago, that in this month of remembrance they may find healing and peace. Lord in your mercy

As winter approaches, we pray for all those who may struggle to heat their homes, and for those who are sick, bereaved or lonely. We hope that our prayers will bring them some comfort and contentment. Lord in your mercy

We know that Mary our mother will always help us in our prayers. Let us think of her as we say Hail Mary...

We pause for a moment to present our personal petitions before God.

(Priest) Lord God, hear our prayers and those silently offered in our hearts through 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.