

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 24th November 2024 (Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 2)

YOUTH SUNDAY



“All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice”

A Prayer for Youth Sunday

Turn your loving gaze, O God, upon young people. They carry in their hearts a great hope: make them strong and pure, so that they can build their tomorrow with confidence. Let them receive freely the gift of the faith, accept it with gratitude and develop it with generosity. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK

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	
Mon 25 th	No Mass today		Feria (week 34)
Tue 26 th	No Mass today		Feria
Wed 27 th	9.30am	Fr Edward Coubald OSB	Feria
Thu 28 th	9.30am	Deceased of the Jamieson family	Feria
Fri 29 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 30 th	10.30am	For peace in the world	St Andrew (feast)
	SECOND COLLECTION: CHRISTMAS FLOWERS		First Sunday of Advent
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 1 st December	9.30am	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	

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

This 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
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 30 th		G Kellett		P Cook		L Lomax
Sun 1 st		B Cook		B Gore		B Gore
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen

Last weekend: attendance: 120, collection: £567.90 – thank you!

Readings: Daniel 7:13-14, Apocalypse 1:5-8, John 18:33-37.

In today's Gospel on this feast of Christ the King, Jesus responds to Pilate's persistent questions about whether he is a king. In the end, it is as if he has to say: if you insist on calling me a king, then yes, I am a king, but mine is not a kingdom of this world for if it were, my men would have fought to prevent me from being surrendered to the Jews.

Jesus goes on to say that he came into the world to give witness to the truth and that all who are on the side of truth, listen to his voice.

What is truth Pilate asks and finds Jesus innocent of the charges brought against him but nevertheless, washes his hand of him by handing him over to be crucified.

Clearly Pilate was not on the side of truth even when it stared him in the face.

In last week's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that though heaven and earth will pass away **my words will never pass away** (Mk. 13: 31)

As an aside: if we close our eyes and our ears, and imagine everything around us disappearing ie the heavens and the earth, then try to imagine what would be left.

Most people would say that 'nothing' is left – not even empty space – nothing except you who are doing the thinking.

But those on the side of *God's Truth who listen to his words that will never pass away*, know that God will continue to exist, simply because pure eternal existence is his mode of being... *I Am who Am* he replies to Moses

from the burning bush, which could be a way to state the impossibility of defining God who is *Pure Existence* with no beginning or end.

The words spoken by the Son of God likewise, have no beginning or end for they will never pass away.

Meanwhile, we open our eyes and ears to the reality of the world we live in and ask where or what is Christ's Kingdom?

Perhaps the simplest answer is to say that wherever love is to be found, there is, at least, a sign of his Kingdom, because God is love and *God's love for us was revealed when he sent his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him* as the first letter of St John tells us.

So, his kingdom is to be found in this world for, in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he will be with his followers to the end of time.

But as we have seen, his words will out-live time and history, and our preface tells us that part of his sacrifice on our behalf was to bring us peace, to put humanity at rights with the Father and to present to the Father a *kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace and a kingdom of justice, love and peace.*

It would seem that Christ's kingdom is of this world and beyond this world but it wouldn't be anywhere unless it lay within each one of us as subjects of the kingdom:

... for you must know, the kingdom of God is among/within you ... Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share his meal, side by side with him. (Lk. 17:21 & Apoc. 3:20)

The Kingdom of God then, is not to be found in a *place* as such, but in the *person* of *Jesus Christ our King*, who walks among us and lives within those who open their heart to him and become signs and witnesses of his truth, his justice, his peace and his love ... in other words, you and me.

Reflections: *... it is beyond doubt that whoever prays for the coming of the kingdom of God **within himself**, is praying rightly, for the kingdom to dawn in him, bear fruit and reach perfection ... for God reigns in every saint ...* (Origen on prayer)

*As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and **King**, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.* (From the Liturgy for Baptism)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's Saint

St Andrew, Apostle and disciple of John the Baptist, who introduced his brother Simon Peter to the Lord. A legend has it that sometime around the 9th century, King Angus and his army found themselves in danger of defeat by the Saxons in what was then, Northumbrian territory. Fearing defeat he led prayers and then saw a cloud formation of a white saltire cross against the blue sky. By that sign, he vowed to make St Andrew, whose relics were believed to have come to Scotland, patron Saint of Scotland.

THIS 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/>.

There is a **PASTORAL LETTER** for this weekend – copies are at the back of church and on the website

There is **NO MASS ON TUESDAY** this week.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas.

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 **AUTUMN MISSIO (APF) RED BOX** collection amounted to **£384.99**. As ever, many thanks to contributors (including those who donate online) and collectors. There are calendars for 2025 at the back of church – they're free of charge so please help yourself.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE WIND BLOWS STRONGER CHRISTMAS TOUR. The now legendary 'In the Living Room' Christmas gig, Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own tipples but there will be mince pies and other fripperies. Only £5 – all proceeds to UNICEF and The Foxton Centre.

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

PLEASE PRAY 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 50 is number 73, Liz and Malcolm Russell. The new year for the club starts **NEXT SUNDAY**, when subs become due. You can pay for the full year (£50) or in blocks of 10 weeks (£10, 5 times over the year). Payment can be by cash, cheque (payable to Brindle Books) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer – see Lesley or Mick for the account details. In the current year we have paid out £1,500 in prize money and raised £1,290 for church funds – thank you! New members are always welcome – again, please see Lesley or Mick or leave your name and contact details in the bookshop with your subs.

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 **this 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 Sunday 24th November – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Priest Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world; I came into the world to be a witness to the truth".

Reader We pray for the wider church that it will serve both God and its people. Lord hear us...

We pray for all in our parish that we may come together to love and serve God. Lord hear us...

We pray for all in the world who are displaced, affected by war, hunger or suffering, that justice will prevail. Lord hear us...

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time and for the recently deceased. Lord hear us...

We pray for all parents and grandparents as we approach Advent. May they demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. Lord hear us...

We now turn to Our Lady, mother of the church, to help us with our petitions as we say: Hail Mary...

In a moment of silence, let us pray for our own needs.

Priest Lord help us to be witnesses to the truth. We ask this 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.