

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2024

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



“Prepare the way of the Lord”

Maranatha! Open our eyes to the dignity of all people and our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha! Let us walk in solidarity with the poor and cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha! Let us shout out for justice for all and renew our hope for change.

Maranatha! The Lord is coming. Let us share the Good News! Amen.

Sue Cooper/CAFOD

THIS WEEK

Sat 7 th	10.00am	Confessions	St Ambrose (memorial)
	10.30am	EBC (<i>Anointing of the sick during Mass</i>)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Second Sunday of Advent
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Henry, Helena and Michael Kitchen	
Mon 9 th	No Mass today		The Immaculate Conception of the BVM (solemnity)
Tue 10 th	No Mass today		Tuesday of Advent 2
Wed 11 th	9.30am	Peace in the World	Wednesday of Advent 2
Thu 12 th	9.30am	Edward & Ann Craven	Thursday of Advent 2
Fri 13 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Lucy (memorial)
Sat 14 th	10.30am	Monica Chatburn	St John of the Cross (memorial)
	6.00pm	John & May Elliott (Snr)	Third Sunday of Advent
Sun 15 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 7 th		L Lomax		J Hothersall		L Lomax	
Sun 8 th		F Fordyce		F Fordyce		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell		Collection counters	L & M Gardner	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 14 th		M Russell		P Fawcett		P Hothersall	
Sun 15 th		K Slater		J Kitchen		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, C Curwen		Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	

**Last weekend: attendance: 113, collection: £360.90, November Holy Souls £150 – thank you!
Thank you also for the collection for the Christmas flowers of £199**

Readings Baruch 5: 1-9. Philippians 1: 3-6. 8-11. Luke 3: 1-6.

How the year has flown by with Advent and Christmas upon us yet again. As we reflect upon the last year and contemplate the prospect of another; in what state do we find ourselves spiritually, mentally, physically... in what state does God find us?

The chances are that for many of us, both younger and older, we find ourselves in need of the encouragement to keep going; the kind of encouragement God gives to his people *Jerusalem* through his prophet Baruch: *Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.*

We are the new Jerusalem but maybe the encouragement we need is of past joys, as in today's psalm, especially when we felt that closeness to God and he with us but which seems to have waned somewhat: *What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad ...* perhaps the same joy St Paul feels when he thinks of and prays for the Philippians because he knows that their new-found love in the Lord is all God's work through Jesus Christ.

Finally, St John the Baptist: the voice crying from his own poverty in the wilderness, but rich in faith and hope of the coming Messiah, urges the people to prepare a way for the Lord, flatten out the lumps and bumps of your life so that you may more clearly *see the salvation of God* when *He* comes.

So, on this second Sunday of Advent, God seeks to encourage us in the present through his witnesses of the past ... encouragement to lift our weary souls and keep going forward in hope.

Reflection

The more we know him, the more we will desire to know him. As love increases with knowledge of him, the more we know God and the more we will truly love him in times of distress or times of great joy.

With prayers, Fr. Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is the belief that, through the gift of God's grace, she was conceived free from original sin and hence preserved immaculate, pure and worthy to be the Mother of God.

St Lucy (d 304): Historically, little is known about her but during this period of persecution, she is believed to have been born to a wealthy family in Sicily, refused marriage preferring to give herself to Christ. She was reported and ordered into a brothel to be violated but by some miracle, she remained immobile. Attempts to burn her also failed and she was eventually dispatched by sword or dagger. Some accounts tell us that she had her eyes torn out but they were miraculously restored and part of her intercessory prayer is for perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater glory and the salvation of our souls hence, she is the patron Saint of eyesight and of the blind among other things.

It was thought that she supplied bread or buns for the Christians hiding in the catacombs and in some countries, this is celebrated as a festival of light on the shortest day of the year, where the youngest daughter dressed in white wakes the rest of the family with rolls, coffee and a song, perhaps Santa Lucia which is still popular in Sicily.

St John of the Cross (1542-1591) Doctor of the Church: St John was one of Spain's foremost poets and mystical writers, who with St Theresa of Avila, reformed the order of Carmelite Friars of which he was a member. The poverty he had known as a child was to assist in his understanding of the spiritual life that through a life of poverty and pure faith and love of God, the soul eventually attains the mystical union. Initially the Order rejected his reforms even imprisoning him but eventually, his piety and learning was recognised and his reforms accepted.

Feedback to the Parish from the Parish Transfer Group

There has been a small transfer group established consisting of volunteers from different aspects of the parish. This group will be representing the Parish in the transferring from Ampleforth to the Liverpool archdiocese. The transfer process will begin in January and as such no official discussions have yet begun.

So far, the group has met with Julia Brooke who is the Abbot's PA and has considerable experience on transferring parishes into various Dioceses around the north of England. The group met to put before Julia concerns and questions that the transfer group had.

This is a summary of the meeting and what we learnt:

- The whole official process will begin in January 2025
- The Abbot and the Archbishop will officially open the discussions, and Julia will be going through the details with a member of the archdiocesan legal team. The discussions will be framed by Civil and Canon Law. Members of our Transfer Group will be present.
- At some point the Historic Churches Committee will be involved especially with the historical significance of St Josephs.
- The transfer process should be completed by the 31st August 2025

The Parish will be providing details and audits to aid the discussion.

There is no indication at this moment as to what the Archdiocese wants to do with the parish, buildings or land. The Transfer Group want you to know that they are committed to communicating to you, the parishioners, as soon as they hear anything.

Please pray for everyone involved in the process and for the future of our parish.

Please support **THIS WEEKEND'S FOODBANK COLLECTION** – our chance to make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

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

Our Health and Safety Advisors have told us that the **HOT WATER BOILERS** in the kitchen and sacristy should be left on to reduce the risk of legionella bacteria developing.

The Parish **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME** for Reconciliation and the Eucharist will begin after Christmas. If you have or know of someone who is in Year 4 but does not attend St Joseph's Primary School who would like to join us, please contact Fr Raphael or Frances Fordyce - 07813123855.

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION Next Sunday 15th December at 3.00pm at St Gregory's, Weld Bank.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE WIND BLOWS STRONGER CHRISTMAS TOUR. The now legendary 'In the Living Room' Christmas gig, **next 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 **Gwladys Bullen** who has died and 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 2 is number 44, Jeanne and Keith Slater. The new year for the club has started so subs are now 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 last club year we 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.

DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE we are asked to pray for Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Bidding Prayers 2nd Sunday Advent Yr C

Priest: Father, as we come together in your name, we ask you to listen to our prayers.

Reader: For all Religious who have given their lives to serving you – give them the strength to remain true to their vocations.
Lord in your mercy...

Reader: During Advent we are asked to pray for migrants and refugees. Give us the understanding to accept and welcome those fleeing from terrors that we cannot imagine.
Lord in your mercy...

Reader: For those who are close to death - may they always be treated with respect and compassion.
Lord in your mercy...

Reader: For all those in our Parish community who feel insecure and afraid – give them the courage and confidence to move forward.
Lord in your mercy...

Reader: For ourselves – in a world of constant movement, help us to find quiet moments to reflect on the true beauty and wonder of your earthly creation.
Lord in your mercy...

Reader: Let us join our prayers with Mary's, as we say together Hail Mary...

Reader: We offer our own silent prayers to you.

Priest: Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings. 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.