

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th January 2025 (Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)

PEACE SUNDAY



This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee

Peace Sunday Prayer

God of mercy and compassion, where I have not loved my neighbour as I love myself, or done to others what I would have them do to me, held grudges, or tried to get even after I have been hurt: Father forgive.

Grant us your peace, that I might know peace within myself, seek to be a peacemaker in my daily life, grow in my conviction that we are all made in your image, love those I find it hard to love, forgive injuries and refuse to retaliate, and follow in the footsteps of the nonviolent Jesus. Amen *(Pax Christi)*

THIS WEEK

Sat 18 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	Frank Thompson	
Sun 19 th	9.30am	For the Parish	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
	11.00am	Baptism: Leo Massaro	
Mon 20 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 21 st	9.30am	Ray Jackson	St Agnes (memorial)
Wed 22 nd	1.00pm	Funeral Service: John Towers	Feria
Thu 23 rd	9.30am	Joseph Moorby	Feria
Fri 24 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Francis de Sales (memorial)
Sat 25 th	10.30am	Dunstan Booth	The Conversion of St Paul (feast)
	6.00pm	Parish	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 26 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	
	11.00am	Baptism: Sophia Louise Firth	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 18 th		G Hopkinson		P Fawcett		Not open	
Sun 19 th		F Fordyce		B Gore		Not open	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 25 th		M Russell		G Hopkinson		Not open	
Sun 26 th		L Rigby		F Fordyce		Not open	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	J & K Slater		

Last weekend – attendance: 111, collection £322.90 – thank you!

Readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5. 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11. John 2: 1-11.

Marriage feasts, celebration and rejoicing are the clear connections between our first reading and the Gospel.

The second reading, as usual, stands alone with its own, no less important lesson - this week reminding us of how the gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifest themselves in many and diverse ways through the many and diverse personalities that comprise the people of God.

Indeed, it is a hymn of celebration: the Holy Spirit rejoicing in its own existence along with the Father and the Son through the likes of you and me if we open ourselves to the life of the Trinity which has been likened to a dance into which generous and loving souls are swept up and participate.

So, in the end, we find this second reading very much a part of the theme of rejoicing and celebration.

What we see in today's readings and in the whole of Scripture, if rightly understood, is God's love for his people, so passionate that it is likened to the passionate love of a bridegroom for his bride: *for as the bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.*

At the wedding feast of Cana, we find the words of the prophet fulfilled in the incarnate Word of God - Jesus, rejoicing at a wedding ceremony.

Though he did sound a bit grouchy when his mother asked him to do something about the shortage of wine: *Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.*

Maybe he was in the middle of telling a joke or listening to one, we don't know, but what we do know is that rather than allow the party spirit to run dry, he fixed it. Fill those jars with water he tells them, right to the top. Each of the six jars we are told, holding at least seventy litres of water suddenly turned into wine and not just any old wine but the very best.

The Gospel describes this as the first of the signs or miracles that Jesus was to go on to perform.

A sign of what?

Of his Father's munificence, generosity, his love and concern for his people's happiness.

But we must not lose sight of the reason why Jesus performed the miracle for it is embedded in our faith as Catholics.

Jesus performed the miracle due to his mother's intercession and, in some form, we believe she continues to intercede on our behalf.

These reflections lead us to the here and now: for shouldn't the Mass be a joy-filled celebration of God's love for his people and his people for God, since at each Mass we renew our commitment: he to us and we to him in our communion with him and each other.

From prayers for a Catholic wedding ... *in the wedding covenant you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church.*

It is by the fulfilment of the sacramental sign, that the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among the faithful.

Our readings today then, remind us that God's love for his people is as passionate as a bridegroom for his bride, but even more so since being God, his love has no limit.

Secondly, it is within the context of a wedding that we learn to turn to Mary, his and our mother for all our needs.

Finally, it is within the context of Holy Mass that all of this comes together for us in the here and now, which is why every Mass is a thanksgiving celebration even though, in our weakness, we may not always feel like rejoicing in this truth ... but then neither do married couples.

O joy that flows from the knowledge of one's self! O unchanging Truth. Your constancy is everlasting! (Sr Faustina Kowalska.)

In a world of so much transition and change, we need to be rooted in the unchanging truth and constancy of the nuptial love God has for us, his betrothed and to call upon Mary to have a word with her Son for all our needs, for Jesus and Mary are as present here at this feast as they were at the wedding feast of Cana all those years ago.

With prayers,

Fr. Raphael.

Commemorations this week

St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr (d 305): a twelve- or thirteen-year-old who refused marriage due to her dedication to Christ. She was denounced and killed by the sword.

Because her name resembles Agnus, (Latin for lamb) the lamb became her emblem in art. Moreover, on her feast day, the lambs are blessed whose wool will be used to make the pallia worn by archbishops and which are made by the nuns of St Agnes Convent, Rome. In 1903, (rather gruesomely) her head was examined and found to be that of a girl of about twelve years of age.

St Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Church (1567-1622). As a priest, much of his time was given to winning people back from Calvinism which he achieved through effective preaching and being driven more by love than anything else, but Calvinism always posed a threat to his life. As Bishop he was devoted to the reorganization of his diocese but especially to the caring of souls through his preaching and spiritual guidance. He taught that whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love and that all can live a devout and spiritual life, for holiness is not reserved just for monks and hermits. He was held in such high respect that a Calvinist minister said, "if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy than this man".

The Conversion of Saint Paul celebrates his conversion from persecuting the Christians to becoming (with Peter) their foremost leader. 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' From these words of Christ to Saul, we learn that what we do to each other we do to Christ for good or ill.

This Sunday is **PEACE SUNDAY** – there is a copy of Pope Francis' message in the "Downloads" section of our website. Also see: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2025/> for more information about the work of Pax Christ, the international Catholic movement for peace.

The **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** runs until next Saturday – see: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/> for information and prayer resources.

Jean Jackson and family would like to thank you for the many messages of condolence, prayers and kind thoughts.

DONATIONS FOR THE FOXTON CENTRE: Over Christmas the Parish has donated at least four bags of hats, gloves, coats and toiletries for the Foxton. Half of the donations are going to the work with vulnerable women and the other two bags to work with the Homeless and Roofless. There was also a cash donation. The response was fantastic and, given the weather, much needed. Would it be possible to carry on our giving but focus on such things as toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, soap and smaller items such as hats and scarves. Have a look at the Foxton Centre Website if you get a chance at: thefoxton.org. Once again may thanks for your generosity. and the other two bags to work with the Homeless and Roofless. There was also a cash donation. The response was fantastic and, given the weather, much needed. Would it be possible to carry on our giving but focus on such things as toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, soap and smaller items such as hats and scarves. Have a look at the Foxton Centre Website if you get a chance at: thefoxton.org. Once again may thanks for your generosity.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION opens this Monday (13th January) until 17th March. More details at: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development/confirmation-programme>.

PLEASE PRAY for John Towers who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Alan Thompson, 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 6 is number 17, Chris Curwen.

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.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

TEA AND COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday mornings. Please come along – you'll be very welcome.

Bidding prayers for the weekend of 18th/19th January 2025

Priest: Trusting in God's love and mercy we bring the needs of the church, the world and our own needs to him in prayer.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis: may he be given the strength to continue to lead and serve all God's people with loving care and humility in a world faced with sadness and conflict.

Lord in your mercy

During this week of Christian Unity, we join with Christians all over the world to pray that the journey to full unity may soon be complete.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for migrants, refugees and all who are far from their home. May we always show compassion and kindness to strangers.

Lord in your mercy

Lord, thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the unity they bring. Help us to use these gifts for the good of all to create a strong and supportive community.

Lord in your mercy

We give thanks for all those who look after people in nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons, and we pray for all who need such care and rely on the help of others.

Lord in your mercy

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

Lord in your mercy

We thank Our Lady for setting the best example for us to follow. We pray that we are always able to follow in her path as we say, *Hail Mary...*

We make our private petitions in silence to God our Father.

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.