

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Houghton, PR5 0DE
Parish Priest: Fr Raphael Jones OSB
Telephone: 01254 852026 – Mobile (emergency) 07944 255541
Email: pp@brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Website: www.brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

The Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2025 (Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 4)



*“Behold, this child is appointed for the fall
and rising of many in Israel”*

God of steadfast love, you sent your Son to be the light of the world, saving people everywhere from sin and death. As Anna gave thanks for the freedom he would bring and Simeon saw in him the dawn of redemption, complete your purpose once made known in him. Make us the vessels of his light, that all the world may glory in the splendour of your peace. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 1 st February	10.00am	Confessions	BVM
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (Blessing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	The Presentation of the Lord
Sun 2 nd	9.30am	Vera and Joe Proctor and Jamie	
Mon 3 rd	No Mass today		Feria (week 4)
Tue 4 th	9.30am	Ray Jackson	Feria
Wed 5 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	St Agatha (memorial)
Thu 6 th	9.30am	Paschal Scott OSB	St Paul Miki and companions (memorial)
Fri 7 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 8 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 9 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 1 st February		M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open	
Sun 2 nd		K Slater		J Kitchen		Not open	
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, C Curwen	Collection counters	C & K Snape		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 8 th		C Williamson		J Hothersall		Not open	
Sun 9 th		C Snape		J Slater		Not open	
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen		

Last weekend – attendance: 110, collection £392.12 – thank you!

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.

As we have just heard: forty days ago, we celebrated the birth of the Light born among a people who walked in darkness.

The messenger to whom the prophet Malachi points is John the Baptist who prepared the people for the coming of the Light and he points him out when he came: *Behold the Lamb of God.*

And it is this prophet Malachi, whose name also means *messenger*, who 400 hundred years before Christ speaks of the Lord whom you seek, suddenly coming to his temple.

The Lord doesn't just come into a temple, he comes *suddenly*, and neither does he come into any old temple, he come into *his* temple.

The *Lord* of whom Malachi speaks is clearly Jesus Christ who, we remember, suddenly enters the temple, overturns the money-changers' tables and tells them that his Father's house should be a house of prayer and not a robber's den.

By contrast, in today's Gospel, we have a rather gentler entry of our Lord into the temple – in the arms of his mother as, with Joseph, they present him to God along with the turtle doves or pigeons as prescribed by the Law ... a modest offering we are told, for people of only modest means; enabling them, so to speak, to redeem him so that they could take him back home with them.

Their reverence for God and their observance of the Law is an example to us all, but at the heart of today's feast is the recognition of who Jesus is by Simeon and Anna.

Simeon is described as a devout and righteous man who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, knew he wasn't to die before he had seen the Lord's Christ, and Anna is described as a prophetess.

Both of them recognised and acclaimed the Lord when he came into his temple.

Simeon proclaims the *Nunc Dimittis* (*Now you let depart*) a fixture of night prayer to this day: *Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the gentiles and the glory to your people Israel* and Anna rejoices, giving thanks and spreads the good news.

So, Mary and Joseph enter the temple bearing Christ, the *Light* to the world.

On this feast which celebrates this event, let us remember that through our baptism, we too become bearers of Christ and our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

We may not feel that he is within our temples of flesh but, should he make a sudden visit, will he find his home a den of iniquity or will he feel at home in a house of prayer which he can fill with his light and love for all the world to see?

Reflections

Jesus is happy to come with us, as truth is happy to be spoken, as life to be lived, as light to be lit, as love to be loved, as joy to be given, as peace to be spread. (St Francis of Assisi)

With Prayers, Fr. Raphael.

This week's Saints

St Agatha (3rd c.) of Sicily was a young girl who vowed her virginity to Christ bringing upon herself the most violent cruelties from the pagan authorities. She was forced into a brothel and tortured by rods, rack and fire and was horribly mutilated before she died of her injuries in prison.

In his homily about her, St Methodius, bishop of Sicily, tells us that her name means 'good' and that 'her goodness coincides with her name and way of life. She won a good name by her noble deeds and by her name she points to the nobility of those deeds. Agatha, her mere name wins all men over to her company. She teaches them by her example to hasten with her to the true Good, God alone'.

St Paul Miki and companions St Paul was a 16th c. Japanese Jesuit who preached the Gospel to the Japanese people with great success. But during a persecution of Catholics, he and his companions were arrested, tortured and bound to crosses upon which they were speared.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Sophia Louise Firth who was baptised last Sunday.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME meeting **this Thursday** (6th) at 6.00pm in the Parish Room.

We need another two people to join our team of **COLLECTION COUNTERS** – if you can help, please let me know. Thank you.

There is a '**FOXTON BOX**' at the back of church for any donations of items such as hats, scarves, toiletries or sleeping bags. They will be taken down to the Foxton Centre on a regular basis. It will make a real difference to peoples' lives and, given that the average age of people without a home or roof is 43 years, you may even begin to help change that.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION at <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> is open until 17th March.

PLEASE PRAY for Alan Thompson who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including 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 8 is number 11, Helen Bleasdale.

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), ie 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 2nd February 2025 – The Presentation of the Lord

Priest: Jesus Christ brings God's light into a world darkened by sin. He calls us to share in his mission to let this light shine out to all peoples in our world today.

Reader: We pray for our Church, its leaders and clergy, as they fulfil their vocation to spread the light of Christ though our world. Lord hear us.....

We have been reminded this week of some of the horrors of the Holocaust. We pray that we never forget that all people are children of the one God, and should be treated accordingly. Lord hear us.....

As we celebrate the Light of Christ coming into our world, we pray that that light shines into the lives of those suffering from illness, physical and mental, and of those around them. Lord hear us.....

We pray that our own faith will be strengthened and renewed, so that we can share Simeon's realisation of what Our Lord's coming into the world means. Lord hear us.....

As we pass from the Christmas season, we ask the blessings of Jesus' mother as we say: Hail Mary.....

In silence we place our own concerns before the Lord.

Priest: Father we ask you to hear these prayers which we make 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.