

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

Second Sunday of Lent 16th March 2025

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



“This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!”

God of all wholeness, heal our hearts of all that prevents us responding to our sisters and brothers excluded by poverty and prevented from living a full and healthy life.

This Lent, may we: implore justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving.

Send your life-giving power to revive the weary, restore the broken and renew the face of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 15 th	10.30am	Bob Moffatt	Saturday of Lent 1
	SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD		Second Sunday of Lent
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 16 th	9.30am	Mary Schofield	
Mon 17 th	No Mass today		St Patrick (feast)
Tue 18 th	No Mass today		Tuesday of Lent 2
Wed 19 th	9.30am	Our primary school	St Joseph (solemnity)
Thu 20 th	9.30am	The Holy Father	Thursday of Lent 2
Fri 21 st	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Lent 2
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction	
Sat 22 nd	10.30am	Edmund Noblet	Saturday of Lent 2
	SECOND COLLECTION: LENTEN ALMS		Third Sunday of Lent
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	
Sun 23 rd	9.30am	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 15 th		M Russell		G Hopkinson		L Gardner	
Sun 16 th		L Rigbye		F Fordyce		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 22 nd		M Sherry		P Fawcett		L Lomax	
Sun 23 rd		K Slater		J Kitchen		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell		Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend – attendance: 112, collection £408 – thank you!

Readings: Gen 15: 5-12. 17-18. Phil 3: 17-4:1. Lk 9: 28 – 36.

As we look at the world scene, we seem to emerge from one crisis only to be plunged into another and we may find our faith and hope in better things to come, strained; since all seems to be looming dark clouds on the horizon.

We need encouragement; if only the tiniest glimpse of light and hope to keep going in faith.

Happily, we have a companion who has himself had to face dark horizons to say the least. Just before the *transfiguration* in today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples:

The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day. (9:22)

We have always to remember though, that the Gospels were put together some years later than the events they describe, and in the light of the resurrection.

Therefore, later generations such as ours, are so used to thinking of Jesus as the *Son of God*, that we lose sight of his *humanity* and that he did genuinely suffer like us - just as last week we saw that he suffered temptations as we do.

So, in the face of the difficulties that lay ahead, even Jesus needed validation and the encouragement that he was on the right path - which was towards Jerusalem and his death *only after which* would come his glorification.

Thus, on the mountain with his closest disciples, they get a glimpse of his glory: the glory that he promises to all who follow him.

And from the cloud, his Father tells them *why* and *how* to follow him: *This is my Son the Chosen One; listen to him.*

Moreover, the presence of *Moses* and *Elijah* are a God-given witness to the Scriptures that spoke of Jesus so many years before and from which Jesus so often quoted during his earthly ministry.

If this was a glimpse of heaven, is it any wonder that Peter should want to erect tents in order to remain there; bathed in the blissful light of such heavenly company in the presence of God himself.

But no! they have to descend from the spiritual heights, to the material and mundane realities of life's struggles and the destiny laid out for each of them; which for Jesus would be in his suffering and death on the cross.

Today's *Preface* tells us *why* this experience on the mountain: it was *to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the Glory of the Resurrection.*

In our 2nd reading, St Paul says: *For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the Saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his own glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.*

So, as we look towards a horizon of looming dark clouds, let us pray to the One Lord who is really in control.

Let us pray for a silver lining in those dark clouds and that he transfigure our moments of depression and despair, into the hope and faith that he *is* with us in our sufferings, so that we can be with him in his glory.

Reflections:

If we love Christ and always seek Christ's embraces, then everything difficult will seem easy. (St Jerome)

With Prayers, Fr. Raphael.

Paul & Bernie Noblett would like to say thank you to all family, friends and parishioners for their support and cards of condolence following the sad loss of Edmund.

Bless you all

This week's saints

St Patrick (385-461) Of British nationality whose father was a deacon and grandfather a priest. At the age of 16 he was captured by Irish pirates and enslaved in Ireland for six years tending herds. It was at this time that he was moved to fervent prayer.

He either escaped or was freed and returned to England where he was ordained priest.

He had very little education which he regretted all his life but nevertheless became bishop of Armagh back in Ireland.

He encouraged religious life; founding a monastery which became the centre of the Irish church and although of little learning, his writings reveal much about the church and life at the time and he is remembered for his simplicity, pastoral care and humble trust in God. But also for his fearless preaching especially to those who kidnapped and enslaved him all those years before.

St Joseph Nothing is known of St Joseph except what is said of him in the Gospels. He was a carpenter; he accepted the will of God; and he supported Mary and brought up Jesus. From the human character of his son we can see that he was a good and responsible father. He is widely venerated as the patron of artisans who honourably do good work with the gifts God has given them and of workers in general and he is a source of inspiration for all who adopt children.

FRIDAY PENANCE: The form of penance we adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form each Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. However, penance is part of the life of every Christian and the intention to do penance is of obligation.

"The days and times of penance for the Universal Church are each Friday of the full year and the season of Lent." (*Canon 1250*)

LENT: Each **FRIDAY** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm, followed by Benediction.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal **THIS WEEKEND.**

NEXT SUNDAY there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for Lenten Alms.

BOOKSHOP: It is with regret that the Bookshop will be closing soon – this is due to a lack of sales over the last two years. It will be open for the rest of March, and all stock is half price.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION at <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> is open until **THIS MONDAY**, 17th March. Would anyone who applies, please let me know? Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY for Anne Haydock who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Pope Francis, Ann Green, 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 14 is number 46, Julie Grogan. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Lent we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

CAFOD Lenten Appeal Lent is with us again, a time of year when CAFOD asks us to be generous in our support for some of those in great need, living overseas. Recent government decisions have cut the amount of aid coming from the country, so the need for contributions from private individuals is all the greater.

There will be CAFOD envelopes given out at Church this weekend, which can be handed in with the collections over the next weeks of lent. Please consider filling in the Gift Aid form attached to the envelope, we can send these to CAFOD who will claim an extra benefit. Alternatively donations can be made via [the CAFOD website](#).

Another initiative is the [Big Lent Walk](#), The link gives detail of how to join in. The aim is to walk 200km during lent, individually or collectively as part of a team, and to raise sponsorship for so doing.

Bidding Prayers for 2nd Sunday in Lent

Priest

Today we hear of God's promise to Abraham and of the heavenly glory that awaits us. We know that our prayers will be heard and so we make our petitions to you in the firm belief that you will answer our requests.

Reader: Let us pray for Pope Francis, that he may continue to be a source of courage and dedication to us all and inspire the growth of our faith and deeper understanding of God. **Lord in your mercy**

We pray that a proper observance of Lent may deepen our faith and strengthen us on our spiritual journey. **Lord in your mercy**

We continue to pray for all refugees, migrants and victims of war, especially the people of Ukraine and the Middle East, that in this time of conflict, they may know God's presence. **Lord in your mercy**

For the unemployed, those threatened with redundancy and people who are struggling to feed their families, may we reach out and help them see a way forward in their lives. **Lord in your mercy**

We pray for those of our parish who are sick, bereaved, or lonely, and have asked for our prayers. We also pray specifically for the speedy recovery of Pope Francis. **Lord in your mercy**

With the improving weather, help us all fully appreciate the marvellous gift of life with the arrival of a new spring. **Lord in your mercy**

We ask Mary, our mother, to help us during our daily lives. We think of her as we say, Hail Mary, full of grace... 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.