

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Seventh Sunday of Easter 21st May 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)

World Communications Day



“Father, it is time for you to glorify me”

Prayer for World Communications Day 2023

May the Lord Jesus, the pure Word poured out from the heart of the Father, help us to make our communication clear, open and heartfelt.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh, help us listen to the beating of hearts, to rediscover ourselves as brothers and sisters, and to disarm the hostility that divides.

May the Lord Jesus, the Word of truth and love, help us speak the truth in charity, so that we may feel like protectors of one another.

(From Pope Francis' message for the 57th World Day of Communications)

THIS WEEK

Sat 20 th	10.30am	For the Pope's intentions	Saturday of Easter 6
	SECOND COLLECTION: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS		Seventh Sunday of Easter
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 21 st	9.30am	For peace in the world	
	11.00am	Baptism: Georgina Suzann McDonald	
Mon 22 nd	No Mass today		Monday of Easter 3
Tue 23 rd	9.30am	Peter Chadwick	Tuesday of Easter 3
Wed 24 th	9.30am	Peace in the World	Wednesday of Easter 3
Thu 25 th	9.30am	The welfare of our schools	St Bede (feast)
Fri 26 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Philip Neri (memorial)
Sat 27 th	10.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	St Augustine of Canterbury (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Pentecost
Sun 28 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	

CONFESSIONS: FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00am OR BY APPOINTMENT

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 20 th		G Kellett		P Fawcett		P Hothersall	
Sun 21 st		R Conboy		L Rigbye		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 27 th		L Lomax		L Gardner		L Gardner	
Sun 28 th		B Cook		S Schofield		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	P Thompson	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend's attendance: 117 weekend's collection of £TBA

Readings Acts 1: 12-14. 1 Peter 4: 13-16. John 17: 1-11.

Today's first reading takes up from where it left us on **Ascension Thursday** and explains why they were gathered in the upper room. It was not out of fear as had previously been the case but because the risen Jesus had told them to wait there for what the Father had promised and for what Jesus had spoken about: the Holy Spirit of Pentecost. But they were not sitting there idly waiting and drinking cups of tea. They were waiting in faith and hope and *praying continuously*.

In his *Letter to the Thessalonians*, St Pauls tells them to pray always, but is this meant for all people through the ages with all the business and distractions that life throws at them? Even the 6th c. Pope Gregory the Great admitted to being unable to keep steadily recollected (in prayer) because of the many distractions that invaded his mind.

A century or so before Gregory, the great St Augustine of Hippo saw a way toward continuous prayer; as not so much rattling off numerous prayers *with bodily prostrations and the lifting of hands* - though such have their place. He sees it more as *a desire for God: **for that very desire of your heart is your prayer and if desire continues uninterrupted, then so does your prayer.*** He goes on to say that this desire is possible in whatever activity you may be undertaking. Continuous prayer of this kind naturally finds its greatest proponent in Jesus himself.

We know he and his disciples engaged in formal prayer and occasions: for example, the gospel of Mark tells us that they didn't leave for the Mount of Olives until after the psalms had been sung. The Last Supper itself with the new meaning he gave it and his teaching of the *Our Father* along with his many quotes from scripture, all might suggest formal occasions of teaching and praying.

But outside of all that, in his meanderings around the countryside, sometimes alone at prayer and in his general discourses, teachings and healings, we get a sense of the constant and intense spiritual connection he has with his Father. Why? because of his intense *desire* to do his will and his intense *desire* to return to his Father along with all who loved and followed him...as we heard in his priestly prayer of offering, in the Gospel of today.

If continuous prayer is to be taken as one of today's themes, then *suffering gladly* might be the other. *If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed* we heard from our second reading. Again we might ask how anyone can *suffer gladly* when we think of the many different and horrible forms of suffering there is.

It is easy to wax lyrical on the subject from the comfort of an armchair or even while tapping away on a computer preparing a homily...and then when that suffering comes, to feel a total hypocrite. Once again, best leave it to St Paul who elsewhere tells the Colossians:

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the church. (chap. 1:24)

Commentary is quick to point out that Paul's sufferings did not *add value* to the sufferings undergone by Christ for our redemption; for that is beyond the power of sinful humanity. It is more the *knowing* that in doing God's work and following in the footsteps of Jesus, that in his own sufferings, Paul shares to some degree, those undergone by Jesus, and in that knowledge, he can be happy. Such an approach to continuous prayer and of gladly uniting our sufferings with his, we may be glorified in him and so fulfil his prayer to his Father.

Reflections

You should not think of prayer as being a matter of words. It is a desire for God, an indescribable devotion, not of human origin, but the gift of God's grace. (St John Chrysostom)

I should not dare to detach my gaze; well knowing that beyond the dark clouds, the sweet sun still shines (St Therese of Lisieux)

With Prayers, Fr. Raphael.

This Week's Commemorations:

St Bede the Venerable (673-735) monk of monasteries in Wearmouth and Jarrow, Sunderland, where he spent the rest of his life. He is famous especially among scholars for his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

St Augustine of Canterbury (d 604) a monk and later prior of a monastery in Rome, in 596 he was chosen by Pope Gregory to lead 30 monks to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. They landed at Ebbsfleet in 597 and were received cautiously by King Ethelbert. By 601, Ethelbert and many of his people were baptised.. He built the cathedral at Canterbury and established a see at London.

THIS SUNDAY IS WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY when we are asked to prayer for, and support financially through the **SECOND COLLECTION** if we are able, the work of the various Catholic media services. For more information, go to: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/popes-message-for-world-communications-day-2023/>. The Pope's message can be found in the "Downloads" section of our website.

There is a **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME meeting this Thursday** (25th) at 6.00pm.

MAY ROSARY: We will say a decade of the Rosary after weekday Masses throughout May.

BOOKSHOP – Cards and gifts for First Holy Communions are now available.

PLEASE PRAY for David Haydock who has died, (and whose funeral service will be at All Saints Church, Higher Walton on 26th May at 10am, followed by interment here at St Joseph's for those who are sick or housebound including Bill and Hilda Warbrick, Anne Chadwick and Maurice Evans, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 23 is number 79, Sue Biggerstaffe. **The next block of 10 weeks has now started.** If you haven't already paid for the full year, could you please pass your subs to Lesley or Mick or leave in the Bookshop – Thank you!

DURING EASTER we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church; Human Work; Vocations; Survivors of Abuse; The Right Use of the Media; the Church.

On **Saturday 1st July**, there will be a **FAMILY FUN DAY** in and around the Parish Hall from 2.00 to 5.00pm, organised jointly by the school, church and scout group. Plenty of fun and games, BBQ, bar, refreshments, Shetland pony rides and much more. Free entry! See the poster on the noticeboard for full details.

GRAVEYARD: Please could we avoid planting shrubs or any other plants or placing any items in front of graves which might prohibit the passing of a lawnmower.

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

If you're the last one out of church after a weekend Mass, could you please check that the lights are turned off and doors closed? Thank you.

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 26th June. £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board, all entertainment and excursions. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr Peyton Centre and National Museum. Single supplement £150. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

THURSDAY STAY AND PLAY! Thursday morning 2-hour Scandi-inspired play sessions for children aged 0-5 in the Parish Hall. Montessori toys, climbing frame, soft play, puzzles, sensory and craft activities, ride-on toys, books, small world, dress up and more. Parachute games, songs/stories at each session led by an EYFS teacher. Juice and freshly-baked shortbread for children included. Refreshments on sale. Six-week block booking: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th and 20th July (NB no session on 13th July). £36 for one child and one adult. Additional siblings £5, babes in arms free, additional adult £1. PAYG spaces £7 subject to availability. Book at www.instagram.com/littlefolk or email littlefolk Lancashire@outlook.com.

Bidding prayers for the 7th Sunday of Easter 2023 (year A)

Priest

Brothers and sisters in Christ, at his ascension Our Lord told his apostles to stay in the city and to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us call on him now, that he will send the Spirit upon us, as we pray for the Church and for the world.

Reader

We pray for the Church; may the Lord send the Spirit on all the faithful, that they may serve him and make his presence known in the world. Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for peace in the world; may all rulers be led by the Spirit and remember that Christ is head over all, and may all people live and work together in harmony and peace. Lord, hear us...

We pray for those in special need of our prayers; for the unemployed and those threatened with redundancy, for all in anxiety for the future, for those in grief with broken hearts and all those struggling with life-threatening illness. Amidst their worry and sorrow, may they be aware of Christ's presence with them. Lord, hear us...

We pray for the departed in Christ; may Christ, who has ascended to the heavens, gather them all to himself. Lord, hear us...

With Our Lady, we pray: Hail Mary....

Let us bring all our own intentions, before the Father.

Priest

Father, send your Spirit upon us, that we may be the instruments of your love in the world; strengthen us in your service and hear our prayers. Through your Son Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.