

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Pentecost 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 4)



*“Receive the Holy Spirit”*

### Prayer for Pentecost

Holy God, you spoke the world into being. Pour your Spirit to the ends of the earth, that your children may return from exile as citizens of your commonwealth, and our divisions may be healed by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	St Augustine of Canterbury (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Pentecost</b>
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Our Lady, Mother of the Church (memorial)
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Monica Chatburn	Feria (week 8)
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Robert Booth	The Visitation of the BVM (feast)
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> June	9.30am	For vocations	Our Lord, Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (feast)
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Brenda O’Gorman	Feria
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Sarah O’Donnell	St Charles Lwanga and companions memorial)
	6.00pm	Bob Moffatt	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	

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

This week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	L Lomax		L Gardner		L Gardner
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	B Cook		S Schofield		B Gore
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	P Thompson	<b>Children’s Liturgy</b>	F Fordyce, G Fowler	<b>Collection counters</b>	L & M Gardner
Next week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	M Sherry		G Hopkinson		L Lomax
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	M Gardner		M Gardner		C Snape
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	J Beeley	<b>Children’s Liturgy</b>	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	<b>Collection counters</b>	B Kellett & M Russell

**Last weekend: attendance: 104, collection £415.50 – thank you!**

**Readings: Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13, John 20:19-23.**

Pentecost concludes the fifty days of Eastertide with the last triumphant double *Alleluia* after the Mass has ended.

The Paschal candle takes a less prominent position; not to hide it since it continues to serve as a witness to the new and risen light of Easter. But it will be lit throughout the year at those most significant moments such as baptism, when we enter into new life with Christ and when we depart this earthly life to be with Christ our Light in eternity.

We also return to the green vestments and tabernacle veil of *Ordinary Time* unless there are Saints days or other commemorations. Green is the colour of growth in the Spirit and hope; it lies between the extremes of the abject penance of purple and unadulterated joy of white. The blood of the martyrs is reflected in red and so are the flames of the Holy Spirit who gave them such courage.

Of course there is nothing ‘ordinary’ about our liturgical *Ordinary Time* since, although we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit of Pentecost on this last Sunday of Easter, we also believe that he is always very much alive and active in the world and at every Mass.

Throughout the bible, we hear amazing stories in both *Testaments* of God’s presence in the world: in the patriarchs who spoke to Him, the prophets through whom He spoke, Mary at the *Annunciation*, Joseph in his dream, Saul’s conversion and the missions that followed with the Spirit tells them where to take the Word of God.

Jesus had promised his followers the Holy Spirit who would teach them everything and give them power to become his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

We are his followers but where is the Spirit in our lives and why doesn’t He talk to us as He did to them, we may ask.

Examples of the activity and healing power of the Holy Spirit in the world today may be found in various books, among them *Miracles Do Happen* where Sr Breige McKenna gives witness to its healing power.

Of course, the Holy Spirit is always at work in the world of every age but maybe we need to be more **attuned** to His voice...on a different wavelength, so to speak, from what we are used to with all the general clatter we subject ourselves to or are subjected to.

The prophet Elijah expected to hear the voice of God in the mighty wind which shattered the rocks or in the earthquake and the fire, but God was in none of these. He was in the gentle breeze; the silence, the still small voice. (1 Kings 19:9ff)

How could Mary, St Paul, the Apostles, the Martyrs and Saints or any of Christ's followers define how the Spirit speaks to them, but speak to them He did and it changed their lives. Surely He will speak to us too if we can but enter into the silence of our hearts.

So this Pentecost, let us renew our efforts and make time to be spiritually present and attuned to that *still* small voice of God who continues to speak to us through the Holy Spirit who is our helper and guide as promised by Jesus.

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### **This Week's Commemorations**

**Our Lady, Mother of the Church** is a celebration only added to the universal calendar in 2018 which helps us to remember that: *'...growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross; to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Redeemed for she is the Virgin who makes her offering to God.'* (From the Decree.)

**The Visitation of Our Lady:** The Gospel of Luke tells us that filled with the joy of the annunciation by the angel and the news that her cousin Elizabeth miraculously was also with child, Mary visits her. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry saying: 'Of all woman you are the most blessed and blessed is fruit of your womb...' which became the basis for the *Hail Mary*.

**Charles Lwanga and Companions:** 19<sup>th</sup> century Martyrs, the youngest being only 13, all put to death for standing up to the debauchery and murderous acts of the Ugandan King Mwanga; they were tortured and burned alive.

**The Feast of Our Lord Eternal High Priest** reminds us of His Priestly mediation between God and man, heaven and earth and our participation in His ministry.

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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

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The **SPRING APF RED BOX COLLECTION** amounted to £413.35 – many thanks, as usual, to both contributors and collectors. The next collection will be in October.

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

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Georgina Suzann McDonald who was received into our Christian community last Sunday, 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.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 24 is number 34, Paul Jamieson.

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**During Ordinary Time (Summer) up to September, we are asked to pray for:** A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

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On **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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**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.

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

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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.

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**ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE**, Ireland, 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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: 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July (NB no session on 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.instagram.com/littlefolk) or email [littlefolk Lancashire@outlook.com](mailto:littlefolk Lancashire@outlook.com).

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## **RISING COSTS**

For everyone, the cost of living is presently rising at an alarming rate. Energy costs are at an all-time high, and the cost of essentials at the supermarket increases each week. So now is not a good time to appeal for additional help for the church's finances, but sadly, however, it is necessary. The heating bills for the church are rising just as much as in your homes, and the maintenance of the old buildings are a constant drain on the church's income.

So we are asking that if you can do so without making your personal situation much worse, could you consider adding a little extra in your weekly offering or monthly standing order? Just a 10% increase will help offset the much greater costs of electricity, gas and essential maintenance the church faces in the coming months.

If you are setting up or amending a standing order, the account details are: **Account name:** Archdiocese L'Pool Brindle St Joseph's Presb 007, **Account number:** 71544691, **Sort code:** 40-29-12, **Account type:** Business.

Also, if you pay UK income tax, signing up for Gift Aid will cost you nothing, but allow the church to reclaim from the government an additional 20% of your offering.

Another extremely valuable benefit for the church, but one which is often not considered is that of leaving a legacy to the benefit of St Joseph's. If you are considering writing or making amendments to your will, this would be a perfect time to add a clause defining the amount you would like to give to the church. It is very important that any alterations to a will are officially sanctioned to avoid any issues at the time of probate. Thank you.

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## **BIDDING PRAYERS – PENTECOST SUNDAY 2023**

Inspired by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, let us turn to our loving God for all our needs.

We pray for the Church and for Pope Francis; may he be blessed with wisdom and strength. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for the world, that the Holy Spirit may renew the face of the earth and bring peace and unity to all mankind. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for our parish community and for our young people preparing for exams. May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire them. Lord in your mercy....

Let us remember in our prayers all who are sick, troubled or distressed. May God's healing spirit strengthen and comfort them. Lord in your mercy....

We ask Our Lady to pray with us as we remember all who have died and gone before us in faith. Let us say together: Hail Mary....

In silence let us pray for our own intentions.

Father, your Spirit renews our world. May he fill us with your love and enable us to do your will. Through 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.