

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time 18th June 2023

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

DAY FOR LIFE



“The harvest is rich but the labourers are few”

Prayer for the Day for Life

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.

(Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life, 105)

THIS WEEK

Sat 17 th	10.30am	Austin and Isabel Harkin	The Immaculate Heart of Mary (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: DAY FOR LIFE		Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	Stephen Dowse	
Sun 18 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 19 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 20 th	9.30am	John Robert Latham	Feria
Wed 21 st	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Aloysius Gonzaga SJ (memorial)
Thu 22 nd	11.30am	Requiem Service: Susan Moon	Ss John Fisher and Thomas More (feast)
Fri 23 rd	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 24 th	10.30am	Wilf Nicholson	The Birth of St John the Baptist (solemnity)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 25 th	9.30am	Pat Corrigan	

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

This week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 17 th	G Hopkinson		P Fawcett		P Hothersall
Sun 18 th	K Snape		F Fordyce		C Snape
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick	Collection counters	C & K Snape
Next week	Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 24 th	L Gardner		P Cook		L Gardner
Sun 25 th	R Conboy		J Kitchen		B Gore
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen

Last weekend: attendance: 110. Thank you for last week's collection of £365.90 and for May's standing orders of £1,329 (weekly average £300.09)

Readings: Exodus 19:2-6. Romans 5: 6-11. Matthew 9: 36-10: 8.

The other day, I had a telephone call from someone I took to be a Muslim from his intense line and manner of questioning me about the Christian faith.

It was one of those occasions when after the conversation, I thought of all the things I wished I had said.

But St Peter exhorts us to be able to account for our Christian hope and behind the *rant* were serious questions which deserve respect.

Among them was one that reveals a very different understanding of their belief from Christianity – even though in the 4th century, Christianity itself as good as embraced it for a short while.

I speak of the Arian heresy whose proponent went by the name Arius.

A heresy is generally defined as a doubt or denial of a defined teaching usually associated with Christianity.

The Arian heresy is described as the principle heresy that denied the true divinity of Jesus Christ who, they say, was created from nothing by the Father as an instrument for the creation of the world. He is called the Son of God not because he shares in the eternal divine nature of God but because of his righteousness.

No need here to go into the many and various forms of the heresy; it is enough to know that it denied the true divinity of Christ which is a denial of the Nicene Creed (AD 325) which affirms the true divinity of Christ along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

It is this denial that lay behind my Muslim friend's enquiry: *How could a perfect, eternal, good God become a grubby human being and why should he want to?*

That is the heart of the question and the heart of the answer lies, as we would expect, in today's readings especially our second reading:

...but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

We see, then, a God who does not reject his mucky creation, but who immersed himself right into it by becoming man. And in today's Gospel, we see a God who through that same man, Jesus, feels sorry for the

crowds because they were *harried and dejected like sheep without a shepherd*.

Moreover, we see a God who invites us to share in his own creative labours and produce with him, a harvest...
...and through his Son invites his followers, you and I, to share in his healing ministry, all of which is a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven.

We believe then, in a God who, yes! through his Son created all things; but the Son **we** believe in is *God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made and of one being, essence or nature, (consubstantial) with the Father*.

Heresies are not necessarily devised by evil people; just people attempting to make sense of what in the end can only remain a mystery. But heresies also **resemble** the truth and this is where the devil, the prince of half-truths and downright lies, steps in.

The creed which we will shortly profess together is not some invention – if even to counter a heresy. It is what was and continues to be handed down and defended from the earliest of times – well before the 4th c. AD.

Our belief in the true divinity of Jesus along with the Father and the Holy Spirit is a great gift from God. The *Incarnation* (his becoming flesh and blood as a human being) is his affirmation of love for this very imperfect world; but which he loved into being, holds in being and continues to shower it with his blessings because it was indeed, *very good* and continues to be through his Son Jesus Christ in the love of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

This week's commemorations

St Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-91) of Spain. Born into an influential family, desirous of joining the military, marching around with a pike as a boy even firing off a cannon without permission. Yet he felt called to the religious life, though a problem with his kidneys made military life less likely.

He joined the Jesuits and as a novice worked among those suffering from the plague until he himself caught it, eventually dying at such a young age but with the name of Jesus on his lips.

Ss John Fisher (1469-1535) and **Thomas More** (1477-1535) John Fisher was Bishop of Rochester and Thomas More, Lord Chancellor and friend of King Henry VIII. Both refused to acknowledge the king as Supreme Head of the Church as opposed to the Pope. Both were charged with treason and beheaded.

The Birth of St John the Baptist whom Jesus called the greatest of all the children born of woman. If all the prophets of old were pointing toward Christ, St John is the one who finally points him out: 'Behold the Lamb of God'.

Prayerful Reflections

St Thomas Aquinas (13th cen.) says of God that though he permits it, evil is not so much a creation, rather it is an absence of good. Here is how the great Dominican theologian Herbert McCabe tries to put it under whose feet I was privileged to sit as a student:

The hole in my sock is simply the absence of wool, but it is just as real as the stone in my shoe. It would be absurd to say that holes in socks are unreal and illusory just because the hole is not made of anything. Nothing in the wrong place can be just as real and just as important as something in the wrong place. If you inadvertently drive your car over a cliff, you will have nothing to worry about; and it is precisely the nothing that you will have to worry about. (Herbert McCabe OP)

For by grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God. Neither is it of works so that no man may glory. (St Paul)

There is no saint without a past and no sinner without a future. (St Augustine)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

THIS SUNDAY IS THE DAY FOR LIFE, the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. This year's theme is 'Listen to Her' and focuses on post-abortion trauma and the impact of abortion primarily on women, but also men and others. Please support the work of pro-life organisations by prayer and, if possible, financially through the **SECOND COLLECTION**. There is more information at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life>.

THIS WEEKEND there is to be a **FOODBANK COLLECTION** – with school summer holidays just around the corner, the needs of those who usually rely on free school meals will increase dramatically.

THIS WEDNESDAY (21st) there will be a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**. If you have anything you'd like raised under "Any other business", please bring it to the attention of one of the committee members – names etc on the noticeboard.

There is **NO MASS ON THURSDAY THIS WEEK** – there is a Requiem Service for Susan Moon at 11.30am.

Apologies if this is a little late – **CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR YEAR 8+ YOUNGSTERS** have started at St Mary's, Brownedge – there may still be time to join.

We still have many **CHRISTMAS WREATHS IN THE GRAVEYARD** which are plastic. There is a skip at the Parish Hall – can people please help by taking a couple up there or by moving any that you see to the side of the footbridge or, even better, taking a couple home? Thank you.

MISSALETTES FOR SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME can be used on ferial days of the same week – the readings, psalm and Gospel acclamation will be different but the antiphons & prayers are the same.

HEIDI CROWTER, who has Down's syndrome, has announced that she will be taking her case against the UK Government over our current discriminatory law, which allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome, to the European Court of Human Rights. To find out more about Heidi's case, and the discrimination babies with Down's syndrome face in the womb, visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/HeidiCase>.

PLEASE PRAY for Susan Moon and Sidney Holding who died recently, for those who are sick or housebound including Bill and Hilda Warbrick and Anne Chadwick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 27 is number 22, Mrs Kathleen Bamber

During Ordinary Time 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.

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. See the poster on the noticeboard for full details.

HELP REQUIRED!!! The parish contribution to the Fun Day is to run the café. We would really grateful if any parishioners could bake cakes/biscuits to sell on the day. Also if anyone is available to help for part of the afternoon, that would be appreciated. A list is at the back of church for you to sign. Thank you. Frances Fordyce and Gill Fowler.

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.

Bidding Prayers for the weekend of 17th/18th June 2023

Priest:

Almighty Father, we bring before you our needs and ask that you hear and answer according to your own will.

Reader:

We pray for your church, that she will obey your voice and hold fast to your covenant, that we will be your very own, for all the earth is yours. Lord hear us...

We pray for peace in Ukraine and ask that you bring the bloodshed and violence to a swift end. Lord hear us...

We pray for all fathers in this parish, that they may reflect their Heavenly Father in his love for his children. Lord hear us...

We also pray for ourselves that, with your authority, we will preach the good news as labourers in your harvest. Lord hear us...

Today, we commemorate the Day for Life. Let us, therefore, pray for legislators and those in authority that they may respect and protect human life from conception to natural death. Lord heard us...

Let us ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to pray with us as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us now spend a moment in silent prayer, bringing our own needs before our Heavenly Father.

Priest:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we look forward in faith to receive from you the answers to our prayers, which we ask through Christ Jesus 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.