

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

## Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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



*“Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop”*

Giver of life, from tiny seeds and parched earth your gentle hand grows richest fruit.

Reveal to us, Creator God, the seeds within us; moisten the soil that our neglect has made dry.  
For alone we lack the vision of your Kingdom. Alone, we fail to recognise the hungry in our midst.

Alone, we lack the strength to fulfil your purpose.

With your inspiring love, Redeemer of all, may the shoots of our potential break free and our hands,  
voices and spirits toil in communion so that your garden of plenty can be shared by all. Amen

(Anna Cronin-Nowakowska/CAFOD)

# THIS WEEK

Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Ann Lumb	St Bonaventure (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	John Robert Latham	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For vocations	Feria
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For peace in the world	Feria
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00am</b>	For our school leavers	Feria
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Requiem: Doreen Sherry</b>	Feria
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Pope's intentions	St Mary Magdalene (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Philip Townend	

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

This week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>		M Russell	P Fawcett		R Smith
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>		K Slater	S Schofield		C Snape
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	Collection counters	J & K Slater
Next week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>		M Sherry	G Hopkinson		L Gardner
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>		L Rigbye	M Gardner		K Slater
Bidding prayers	L Russell		Collection counters	C & K Snape	

**Last week's attendance: 108.**

**Thank you for last week's collection of £346 and for June's standing orders which were £1,065.**

**Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23.**

Thus says the Lord: *As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield...providing seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.*

We may look around the world where, in many places, the rain doesn't fall and the earth doesn't yield a harvest and many die of disease, starvation and thirst. We see devastating disasters (not all man-made) leaving thousands homeless all of which seems to fly in the face of Isaiah's prophecy in our first reading.

How are we to see the hand of a loving God in such a world; a world that we may feel we could have made a better job of if we were God?

But we do not despair and indeed are gathered, united in a faith that believes that, however bad the world appears to be, we cannot escape the fact of its existence – what might not have existed exists and you and I along with it.

We are united in the faith that you cannot have a creation without a creator or a design without a designer however faulty we believe that design to be. Because with *Job*, we realize the futility of criticizing the creator for we simply cannot see the whole thing of which we are part. Isaiah and other prophets express the same futility as clay in the potter's hands, the potter being God: can the clay truly criticize the potter on his work?

We are gathered united in the faith that from the dawn of time, the sin of humanity caused a breach, a rupture in that perfect relationship of love enjoyed by God and his creation and the whole of creation was affected (or infected) by the sin of Adam and Eve. But such was the love of the creator for his fallen world that he reconciled it to himself through the life death and resurrection of his only Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

And in today's Gospel we find Our Lord by the lakeside teaching, praying, exhorting his followers (you and me) to cultivate within our hearts the kind of soil into which he can plant his word... God's word... a place in our

hearts into which he can produce the harvest that Isaiah spoke of in our first reading which was written many years before Jesus set foot among us.

There may be more pain after *The Fall* than there was before it, but as the saying goes: *no gain without pain* whether it be the seed sown within us straining to burst forth or a mother experiencing both joy and pain as she gives birth to a new and wonderful life; we groan inwardly along with the whole of creation as we wait for our bodies to be set free and the new creation to spring forth.

As St John says in one of his letters: *though we are already the children of God, what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed. All we know is that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.*

Let us pray for the faith to be among those who hear the word of God, understand it and produce a harvest – not thirty or sixty but a hundredfold and more.

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## Reflections

*Grant me O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance to wait for you and the hope of finally embracing you.* (St Thomas Aquinas)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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This week, we remember **St Mary Magdalene**, the devout follower of Jesus, out of whom he cast seven devils. She faithfully followed our Lord to Calvary, anointed his body at the tomb and was the first witness of his resurrection.

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**MASS ON THURSDAY** is at **10.00am** – end of year Mass for the primary school – all welcome.

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**MASS ON FRIDAY** is at **10.30am** – Requiem Mass for Doreen Sherry.

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**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** This Sunday will be the last session for summer. Children's Liturgy will start again in September. All at Children's Liturgy wish you a wonderful summer holiday – let's hope the hot weather returns. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

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**THE MUSIC GROUP** also stand down for their summer break after this Sunday. We thank them for enhancing our Sunday Liturgy.

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**TEA AND COFFEE** will still be served after Sunday Mass during summer but help is needed. If you feel you can help, please could you sign the list at the back of church? Many thanks.

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The **ARROWSMITH WALK** will take place this year on August Bank Holiday Monday (28<sup>th</sup>). The format and timings will be the more or less the same as previously – the only real change being that, instead of the barbecue after Mass, there will be tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits in the Parish Room. More details in due course.

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**ASK YOUR MP TO STOP ABORTION UP TO BIRTH:** The abortion lobby is running a campaign to fully 'decriminalise' abortion, which would introduce abortion up to birth! Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to oppose the introduction of abortion up to birth. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth> to contact your MP – it only takes 30 seconds.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Doreen Sherry who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Bill Warbrick and Anne Chadwick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 31 is number 5, John Elliott. The next block of 10 weeks starts **this weekend** when **subs are due** (unless you've paid for the full year).

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## RIISING 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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**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.

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**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.

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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. In the interests of the environment, can we keep the use of plastic to a minimum and, to make life easier for our dedicated volunteers, please remove wreaths etc in a timely fashion.

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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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In the unlikely event of the need to evacuate church for any reason, the **ASSEMBLY POINT** is in Chapel Fold, by the statue of St Joseph.

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The **KEY FOR THE TOILETS** is available at the back of church during Mass.

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**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS:** If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from the Catholic chaplain while in hospital, please ring 01257 262713 (for Chorley hospital) or 01772 719604 (for Preston). For St Catherine's Hospice, contact Brownedge St Mary's on 01772 335168.

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## **Bidding Prayers 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A**

**(Priest)** Let us turn to God our Father for all our needs.

**(Reader)** Father, send your Spirit upon all who teach the Catholic Faith or have pastoral care for others; may they bring light and hope to all in their care. Lord hear us...

We pray that world leaders, politicians and all involved in the well-being of their citizens reflect in their policies your love and care for the world. Lord hear us...

Make our hearts receptive to the seed you sow within us through your word and sacrament; that it may produce a harvest of love in abundance. Lord hear us...

May we never forget to pray for the sick, the housebound, the depressed and those struggling in other ways with life, as we ask the intercession of Mary our heavenly Mother...Hail Mary...

...and now for a moment of silent prayer.

**(Priest)** God our Father, we ask you to hear and grant these prayers offered in faith 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.