

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Houghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time 12th November 2023

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

**Please remember in your prayers those of our Parish
who died as a result of the two World Wars**

John Wynne	died	August 8 th 1915	aged	26
Arthur Houghton	"	November 1 st 1915	"	21
Ambrose Marginson	"	June 15 th 1915	"	19
Joseph Burscough	"	July 26 th 1916	"	18
Walter Lowe	"	November 3 rd 1916	"	18
John Withrington	"	July 31 st 1917	"	25
James Houghton	"	October 10 th 1917	"	18
Jeremiah Decaux	"	October 13 th 1917	"	17
Robert Walmsley	"	October 21 st 1917	"	31
Thomas Widdowson	"	October 28 th 1917	"	21
Joseph Horrocks	"	August 29 th 1918	"	21
Arthur Lancelot Lyon	"	September 27 th 1918	"	18
Jack Brennan	"	October 3 rd 1923	"	35
John Slater	"	July 20 th 1944	"	21
Joseph Gerrard	"	October 13 th 1944	"	25
William Jackson	"	November 22 nd 1944	"	31
John Morton	"	February 18 th 1946	"	23

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

(From "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon)

THIS WEEK

Sat 11 th	10.30am	EBC	St Martin of Tours (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time – Remembrance Sunday
Sun 12 th	10.30am	The Keany family	
Mon 13 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 14 th	11.00am	Requiem: Francis Elliott	Feria
Wed 15 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Feria
Thu 16 th	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Fri 17 th	9.30am	Christine Jamieson	Feria
Sat 18 th	No 10.30am Mass		Feria
	12.00noon	Wedding: Amy Cross and Mike Pennington	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 19 th	9.30am	David Crilly	

First Saturday of the Month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the Sick during 10.30am Mass

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 11 th		G Hopkinson		P Fawcett		P Hothersall
Sun 12 th		K Snape		F Fordyce		C Snape
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 18 th		L Gardner		J Hothersall		L Lomax
Sun 19 th		R Conboy		J Kitchen		B Gore
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend: attendance: 107, collection: £360.57 – thank you!

Readings: Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-3.

As we come to the end of our liturgical (church) year, all of today's readings remind us that life, as we know it, will come to an end. None of us know when it will happen for each of us or when the very final end of time will happen for everyone and everything. Therefore, we need to be ever ready, alert and prepared so that we are not taken by surprise.

Jesus tries to explain this in his parable about the bridesmaids.

The bridegroom was late and nobody was sure at what time he would turn up to marry his bride, so the five foolish bridesmaids thought that there would be plenty of time to get some spare oil for their lamps whereas the sensible bridesmaids brought spare oil with them so that they would be ready at whatever time he came; however late or however sudden...and we heard what happened: the sensible bridesmaids with their lamps prepared were invited into the wedding hall while foolish ones whose lamps had gone out were too late, the door was closed upon them and they were left outside in the cold and dark.

Jesus loves all people but they do not all love him back. But if, as baptised members of his church, we take time to gather together as we do now; say our prayers and try to love each other as he taught us, then we are like the bride and he is, for us, the bridegroom – deeply in love with us as we should be with him.

And one day, he will come to take us to himself just like the bridegroom in today's Gospel.

But we are also like the bridesmaids who need to be prepared for when he comes, which could be at any time and we do not want him to find us unprepared when he finally comes.

So how can we best prepare for his arrival?

Our first reading gives us a clue: *Wisdom is bright and does not grow dim...be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.*

To be wise, to have wisdom, is a very great gift, but for all their wisdom, some people are not wise enough to recognize what true wisdom is...or even **who** true Wisdom is.

In that first reading, itself called *Wisdom*, wisdom is described as a 'she' *By those who love her, she is readily seen*. This is because in the old Greek language, the name 'Wisdom' translates in the feminine – but we know that all wisdom comes from God through his Son Jesus Christ.

So, the best way to prepare for his unexpected coming is to fill ourselves with his light, indeed, his wisdom – through what he teaches us, through our prayers to him especially for others who suffer, and on this *Remembrance Sunday*, through our prayers for peace and that we will never again have to suffer the violence and death that the two great wars and other conflicts inflict upon the world.

But there is a constant battle going on between the forces of good and the forces of evil.

However, while we know that Jesus' death and resurrection marked the victory of good over evil, it is still being played out in our time and our history and we are all involved in this battle in the choices between good and evil that we make throughout our lives.

That is why we remember all those who have died fighting against the evil forces of oppression and tyranny which are all works of the devil.

To conclude with two thoughts:

Through our readings, Jesus seems to be telling us that, however bad things are here on earth, there is another life where there is no more conflict, pain and suffering awaiting us and that one day, we do not know when, he will come to take us to that place.

And he tells us that if we want to go to that place, we need to be prepared and ready every day of our lives, not with lamps like the bridesmaids but with his own light...that is if, every day, we look for him and invite him into our hearts.

Reflection

Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset. (St Francis de Sales)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be **open every weekend** until Christmas.

MASS THIS SUNDAY (12th) is at **10.30am** to give me time to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at Houghton Cenotaph.

MASS ON TUESDAY this week is at **11.00am** – Requiem Mass for Francis Elliott.

There is no **10.30am MASS ON SATURDAY** – at 12.00noon, Amy Cross and Mike Pennington will be married.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS – Following long-standing Church custom, there will be a Mass Intention box for the departed in front of the altar throughout November. Please place the intention and donation into the box and Holy Mass will be said for them each week throughout the month. **Please label as “November intention” on the envelope to distinguish from a Mass intention.**

PLEASE PRAY for Francis Elliott who died recently, for those who are sick or housebound including Rose Higginson, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time. Please also remember in your prayers **Amy Cross and Mike Pennington** who will be married next Saturday.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 48 is number 5, John Elliott.

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

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

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.

Trinity Methodist Church have a “**CRAFTY CHRISTMAS MARKET**” on Saturday 18th November from 10.00am to 3.00pm. See the poster on the noticeboard for more details.

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.

BIDDING PRAYERS – Ordinary 32/Remembrance Sunday 2023

Priest: Trusting in God's love and mercy we pray for our needs and the needs of people everywhere.

Reader: We pray for the Church throughout the world. May all her members remain strong in faith, hope and courage. Lord in your mercy....

On Remembrance Sunday let us pray for all those who lost their lives during the two World Wars and in all the conflicts since. Let us also remember those who mourn for them. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for a peaceful and just end to the conflicts between Israel and Gaza and between Ukraine and Russia. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for our Parish community, especially for those who are experiencing hardships. May we all know Christ's calming presence in our lives. We also pray for Amy Cross and Mike Pennington who will be married next Saturday. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for all who care for those in hospital and nursing homes, and for all who are suffering physically or mentally. Lord in your mercy....

We commend ourselves, and all who have died in faith, to the intercession of our Holy Mother Mary as we say "Hail Mary..."

Let us pray to God in silence for our own intentions.

Priest: Heavenly Father may your love strengthen and encourage us when there are so many problems in the world today. We offer our prayers to you 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.