

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time 19th November 2023

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



*“You have been faithful in small things;
come and join in your master’s happiness”*

A prayer for those affected by conflict

God of refuge, the rock in whom we trust, watch over our sisters and brothers everywhere who are affected by conflict of any kind. Bring comfort to those who grieve, shelter to those who are homeless and sustenance to those who hunger and thirst.

God of mercy, open our hearts to your grace, so that we are filled with compassion and a generosity of spirit, and inspire us to take action. Spirit of love, pour out your peace like a healing balm, which brings hope in place of despair. Amen.

(Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)

THIS WEEK

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	
Mon 20 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 21 st	No Mass today		The Presentation of the BVM (memorial)
Wed 22 nd	9.30am	Evelyn Mary Bateson	St Cecilia (memorial)
Thu 23 rd	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Fri 24 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions (memorial)
Sat 25 th	10.30am	Pope's intentions	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: ANIMATE YOUTH SERVICE		Our Lord, Jesus Christ, Universal King
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	
Sun 26 th	9.30am	For the Parish	

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

This 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	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 25 th		G Kellett		G Hopkinson		R Smith
Sun 26 th		B Cook		J Slater		K Slater
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	

Last weekend's attendance: 182

Thank you for last weekend's collection of £424.05 and for the October standing orders of £1,090.

Readings: Proverbs 31:12-13,19-20,30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30.

There is a saying:

If you are careful enough, nothing bad will happen to you...but neither will anything good happen.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about risk-taking where a master who, before going abroad, entrusts his three servants with his property.

In terms of 'talents': to one he gives five, to another two and to the last he gives one.

The first two invest their talents and make a profit, whereas the servant with one, in a mean and resentful spirit toward his master, buried it and gave it back to his master on his return.

The master rewards the first two – promising that since they can be trusted with small things, he will trust them with greater. The third servant he rebukes for not investing his property like the others and takes away his one talent and gives it to the servant with five: *for to everyone who has will be given more and he will have more than enough, but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*

There are many levels at which we might attempt to understand this parable.

For example, was it aimed at the religious rulers of the day who used their power to *subject* everybody to unchanging and binding laws... burying from their sight God's love for them?

Was it aimed at the post-resurrection community to encourage and exhort them to get on establishing the Kingdom of God with whatever talents they have each received from Jesus until his return?

Might the parable speak to the church today, perceived by many as burying the love of God in favour of religious laws and obligations?

Or it might speak to those members of the laity and clergy who would prefer centuries of an unchanging liturgical format rather than the Church's attempts (since the reforms of Vatican II) to try to make the Mass and its traditions more accessible and meaningful to the spirit of the age without compromising its core beliefs.

It may be all those and more.

But in the end, doesn't Jesus' parable challenge each one of us to carry out a self-audit in which we ask God: 'What gift have you given to me and how would you have me use it to further your kingdom on earth?'

It has been well said: *If you risk nothing, you lose nothing and nothing comes out of it.*

We are called upon to take a risk with our talents; but if done for the sake of his Kingdom, God will surely add the *Value* and the *Interest*.

Reflections

Following Jesus isn't easy, but it's wonderful! And it's always a risk. (Pope Francis)

Consider not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. (St John XIII)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Presentation of Our Lady celebrates Mary's dedication to God throughout her life springing from her Immaculate Conception. Her feast also commemorates the dedication of the Basilica of St Mary built next to the Temple in Jerusalem to honour that memory.

St Cecilia 3rd cent. According to a 5th cent legend, she was betrothed to a pagan but converted him and his brother to Christianity but she retained her virginity being, as she saw it, betrothed only to God. While the organ played at her wedding feast, she sung in her heart to the Lord that my heart remain unsullied so that I be not confounded. Both her husband and brother were martyred, whose bodies she buried before being martyred herself.

At the foundation of the Academy of Music in Rome in 1584, St Cecilia was chosen as its patroness.

St Andrew Dung-Lac and companions martyred in Vietnam and Indo-China from 1745-1862: 8 bishops, 50 priests, 59 laymen, but in all, over 100,000 Christians were killed in the course of subsequent persecutions especially during the first two hundred years of Christianity in that area.

There is **NO MASS ON TUESDAY** due to the tree stump outside church being removed.

NEXT SUNDAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY. There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support Animate, the Archdiocesan youth service. There's information about them and their work at: <https://www.animateyouth.org/>.

If anyone wants some of the **WOOD** from the lime tree that was in front of church, please help yourself – donations to offset the cost of its felling would be appreciated.

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

ADVENT REFLECTION – why not take time out of the busy-ness of life for an hour's prayer and reflection in the build up to Christmas? Each session starts with Vespers (the evening prayer of the Church) then we reflect on the readings for the coming Sunday and end with Compline (the night prayer of the Church). There's no heavy theology involved, just a bit of peace and quiet at the end of the day. Every Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Parish Room, starting **next Wednesday** (29th) when we will look forward to Advent Sunday.

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 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 were married on Saturday.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 49 is number 24, Cathy Kershaw.

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.

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 for the weekend of 18-19 November 2023

Priest: Let us pray to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who, through his Holy Spirit, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

Reader: We pray for the Pope, bishops and clergy that they may be true to your Word, in spirit, faith and deed. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for the gift of our wives and mothers, who are a blessing to us and our families, that you would fill them with your love and guide them in your wisdom and strength. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering for their belief in Christ, that they may remain steadfast in their conviction and receive the reward that Jesus has won for them. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all who are anxious or distressed in mind or body; comfort and relieve them in their need, grant them patience and joy in their suffering. Lord in your mercy...

Let us ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to join us in our prayers as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us now spend a few moments in quiet prayer for our own needs.

Priest: God our loving Father, we pray that you will accept and answer our prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.