

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time 4th February 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 1)



He cured many who were suffering

Prayer of intercession to the Blessed Virgin Mary for migrants and refugees

O Blessed Mary, Mother of Mercy, you fled into exile in the moonlight, carrying your son, our Lord Jesus. You shared his journey to the Cross, and are now robed in the light of peace.

Mary, Mother of the Poor, watch over migrants and refugees holding their families close on fearful journeys. Comfort and protect them, we pray, as they walk beneath the shining stars.

Bless our communities, loving Mary, fill our hearts with compassion, help us to shelter the stranger and share the goodness of God's consoling love with all our neighbours. Hail Mary... *Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD*

THIS WEEK

Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Confessions	St Blaise (memorial)
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Pauline Nixon	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 4 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 5 th	No Mass today		St Agatha (memorial)
Tue 6 th	9.30am	Jack Morton	St Paul Miki and companions (memorial)
Wed 7 th	9.30am	Mary Hawarden	Feria
Thu 8 th	9.30am	Wilf and Paul Nicholson	Feria
Fri 9 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 10 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Scholastica (feast)
	SECOND COLLECTION: LEPRA		Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	John Elliott (snr)	
Sun 11 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 3 rd		M Russell		G Hopkinson		Not open
Sun 4 th		K Snape		S Schofield		Not open
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 10 th		M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 11 th		R Conboy		B Gore		Not open
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	Collection counters	J & K Slater	

Last weekend: attendance: 113, collection: £355.20 – thank you!

Readings: Job 7:1-4,6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23, Mark 1:29-39.

The character, Job, of our first reading, is described as a sound, honest, God-fearing man who shunned evil.

He was a man of wealth, family and good standing, all of which were seen as blessings from God for a life well lived.

And then suddenly his good fortune is reversed and he loses everything and is left sitting, riddled with sores, in sackcloth and ashes and we remember his famous lament *Naked I came from my mother's womb, naked I shall return.* (ie to the womb of mother earth) *The Lord gave, the Lord has taken back. Blessed be the name of the Lord.*

He curses his fallen state but he never curses God and he is further tormented by three 'comforters' who basically tell him to grin and bear it because he must have sinned... though Job is convinced that he hasn't.

The story resolves in Job having to learn that a righteous life can make no claim upon God's favours – reminding us of Jesus saying that the rain falls and the sun shines on the good and bad alike. Job's fortunes are restored to him but no clear answer is given to the mystery of suffering; only that God's ways are beyond the comprehension of man.

The mystery of suffering presents itself in today's Gospel, but Jesus, instead of wasting time questioning it, sets about doing something about it; not by separating the good from the bad, but healing all who came to him – the separation, he will later say, will come in the *Final Judgement*. (Mt 25: 31ff)

But for us now, in humility with Job, we learn to admit of our limited understanding about the mysteries of suffering, itself part of the mystery that is God, and to trust that there is a bigger picture beyond the limitations of our tiny minds.

However, unlike Job, we do have an answer to the mystery of suffering, maybe not the answer we would like because it is a better answer than anything we could have imagined.

For the answer can only be found in the one who says:

Come to me all who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest: (Mt 11: 28)

Jesus Christ.

Reflections

I should not dare to detach my gaze, well knowing that beyond the dark clouds the sweet sun still shines.
(Therese of Lisieux)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's Saints

St Agatha (3rd c.) of Sicily was a young girl who vowed her virginity to Christ bringing upon herself the most violent cruelties from the pagan authorities. She was forced into a brothel and tortured by rods, rack and fire and was horribly mutilated before she died of her injuries in prison.

In his homily about her, St Methodius, bishop of Sicily, tells us that her name means 'good' and that 'her goodness coincides with her name and way of life. She won a good name by her noble deeds and by her name she points to the nobility of those deeds. Agatha, her mere name wins all men over to her company. She teaches them by her example to hasten with her to the true Good, God alone'.

St Paul Miki and companions St Paul was a 16th c. Japanese Jesuit who preached the Gospel to the Japanese people with great success. But during a persecution of Catholics, he and his companions were arrested, tortured and bound to crosses upon which they were speared.

St Scholastica (480 – 543-7) Sister of St Benedict and first Benedictine nun, her convent being about five miles from Monte Cassino where her brother was Abbot. A story goes that every year they would meet in a house not far from his monastery and talk of the things of God. On one visit, just before he was to leave, she urged him to stay but he refused. So, she prayed silently and a violent storm broke out. Shocked, Benedict said to his sister 'May God forgive you sister, what have you done?' and had to remain there, where they happily continued their discourse. Three days later, from his cell, Benedict saw the soul of his sister rising to heaven like a dove and he buried her in a tomb he had prepared for himself. Their minds had always been united in God; their bodies were to share a common grave.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME. Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will **NOT** be a meeting for those enrolled on the Sacramental Programme this Thursday (8th). The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February at 6pm in the Parish Room.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the work of **LEPRA** as they mark the centenary of their work to study and eradicate leprosy. You can find out more about them and what they do at: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/>.

There is a list at the back of church with **FOODBANK COLLECTION** dates for this year. If you can help with collection/delivery, please sign up – the more people we get, the easier it is. Thank you in advance.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION is open until **15th March**. Please go to <https://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> for more details.

PLEASE PRAY for Martin Skingsley who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

DURING ORDINARY TIME (WINTER) ie up to Lent, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 8 is number 2, Michael Cowsley.

TEA AND COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday morning – come along, you'll be most welcome!

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL-OCTOBER 2024: 7 nights apartment B&B from €273 per person sharing. Airport transfer available on request. For details and to book the dates that suit you, ring 020 3239 8662 or visit www.med-irishcentre.com.

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.

BRINDLE PLAYERS pantomime, Knight Fever, will be staged in the Parish Hall on 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th and 17th February 2024. Tickets can be purchased at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/brindle-players. For large group bookings please contact them via ticketsbrindleplayers@gmail.com or call 07711 848994. More details at: www.brindleplayers.co.uk.

Bidding prayers for the weekend of 3-4 February 2024

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 church, that she may seek the heart of Jesus and be a guiding light for the world. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our nation and leaders, that they will seek the will of God in their decision making. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our families, that they may look to Jesus, and His blessings, to help them through difficult times. Lord in your mercy...

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