

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Fifth Sunday of Easter 7th May 2023

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



“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”

A Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation

Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all consolation and hope. Be the refuge and guardian of all who suffer from abuse and violence.

Comfort them and send healing for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit. Help us all and make us one with you in your love for justice as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.

Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating your praise, both now and forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.” cf Matthew 4:123

THIS WEEK

Sat 6 th	10.00am	Confessions	Saturday of Easter 4
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sun 7 th	9.30am	For all who are sick or housebound	
Mon 8 th	No Mass today		Monday of Easter 5
Tue 9 th	9.30am	For victims and survivors of sexual abuse	Tuesday of Easter 5 <i>Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse</i>
Wed 10 th	9.30am	For the wellbeing of the King and Queen	Wednesday of Easter 5
Thu 11 th	9.30am	Hugh Nolan (RIP)	Thursday of Easter 5
Fri 12 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Easter 5
Sat 13 th	10.30am	For vocations	The Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King (feast)
	6.00pm	For peace in the world	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sun 14 th	9.30am	For the Parish	

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

CONFESSION FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00AM ON 21 ST SEPTEMBER							
This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 6 th		L Gardner		J Hothersall		L Gardner	
Sun 7 th		F Fordyce		J Kitchen		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	C Snape, J Grogan		Collection counters	J & K Slater	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 13 th		M Russell		P Cook		R Smith	
Sun 14 th		M Gardner		J Slater		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick		Collection counters	C & K Snape	

Last weekend's attendance: 103 Thank you for last weekend's collection of £633

Readings: Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12.

I find it a struggle to find any direct links between our readings for this week.

The first from *Acts* shows a tension in the early Christian community between the Greek speaking Jewish converts known as the Hellenists and the Aramaic speaking Jewish converts named as the Hebrews.

Seemingly, in the daily distribution for those in need, the Hellenists felt that their own widows were being neglected possibly, some suggest, due to the language barrier. The problem is resolved by the appointment of seven virtuous brothers to see to their needs in order that the remainder can continue to give themselves to the service of the *Word* and *Prayer*. This ministry of service is generally considered to be the origin of the diaconate (ministry of service) today, however, though an ordained ministry in its own right, it is also the first step of ordination to the priesthood, and the ministry involves all but the offering of Mass, the hearing of confession and giving absolution.

In our second reading, the letter attributed to St Peter reminds those first Christians that they are *founded on Christ, the corner stone; built as living stones into a spiritual house, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people set apart and consecrated to sing the praises of God*.

Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciple for his imminent departure. It is a popular choice for funerals and while one hears it over and over again, one never tires of it for it is full of such hope and promise.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, Jesus tells his disciples, for there are many rooms in my Father's house... I am going to prepare one for you so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.

But doubting Thomas pipes up: 'Lord, we do not know where you are going so how can we know the way?'

I am the Way the Truth and the Life he tells them. *No one can come to the Father except through me*. But this time it is Philip who seeks clarification: 'Show us the Father and then we will be satisfied' which leads to Jesus' second big "reveal": **To have seen me is to have seen the Father...**

How can we sum up these readings in a meaningful way for us today?

Perhaps by reflecting that there are two things that exist: one is God and the other is his creation.

As the only part of his creation made in his image and likeness, humans are called by God to be united like living stones and cemented together in loving service of each other by the love of the Holy Spirit, to sing his praises in this life and the next. This is his will for us which he made known through his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have the freedom to choose **not** to be so called, but there is simply no other way, no other truth and no other life than the **One** who reveals himself as the **Way, the Truth and the Life**.

*O Lord, you search me and you know me,
You know my resting and my rising,
You discern my purpose from afar.
You mark when I walk and when I lie down,
All my ways are open to you.*

*O where can I go from your spirit,
Or where can I flee from your face?
If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in the grave, you are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn
And dwell in the sea's furthest end,
Even there your hand would lead me, your right hand hold me fast.*

(From psalm 138/139)

We can never escape from Him – but why should we ever want to?

With prayers, Fr. Raphael.

This week's Commemoration

Feast of the Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King

The Cathedral reminds us that the little parish or community of faith here at St Joseph's is part of the larger community of parishes that make up the (arch) diocese of Liverpool where resides the Bishop who rules from his *Cathedra* (chair/throne) uniting us all as one community of faith.

The building itself is obviously a place for gathering for prayer and praise of God as all churches are. But, built of stones bonded by cement, it is also an outward sign of its members themselves living stones and bonded in the love of Christ...the King.

MAY ROSARY: We will say a decade of the Rosary after weekday Masses throughout May.

BOOKSHOP – Cards and gifts for First Holy Communions are now available.

Our **Primary School PTFA** are selling **HANGING BASKETS** made by a local nursery to raise funds to support the school for only £25 each (rrp £40). See the poster on the noticeboard for full details.

PLEASE PRAY for David Haydock who has died, 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 21 is number 75, Bryn and Christine Thomas. **The next block of 10 weeks starts this weekend.** If you haven't already paid for the full year, could you please pass your subs to Lesley or Mick or leave in the Bookshop – thank you!

DURING EASTER we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church; Human Work; Vocations; Survivors of Abuse; The Right Use of the Media; the Church.

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 lawn mower.

ISING 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.

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.

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 26th June. £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board, all entertainment and excursions. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr Peyton Centre and National Museum. Single supplement £150. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

THURSDAY STAY AND PLAY! Thursday morning 2-hour Scandi-inspired play sessions for children aged 0-5 in the Parish Hall. Montessori toys, climbing frame, soft play, puzzles, sensory and craft activities, ride-on toys, books, small world, dress up and more. Parachute games, songs/stories at each session led by an EYFS teacher. Juice and freshly-baked shortbread for children included. Refreshments on sale. Six-week block booking: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th and 20th July (NB no session on 13th July). £36 for one child and one adult. Additional siblings £5, babes in arms free, additional adult £1. PAYG spaces £7 subject to availability. Book at www.instagram.com/littlefolk_lancashire or email littlefolk_lancashire@outlook.com.

Bidding Prayers for 6th and 7th May 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Priest: As we offer up our prayers, let us place our trust in God, as Jesus tells us in today's Gospel.

Reader: For Pope Francis – that he may succeed in his mission to find an end to the war in Ukraine through prayer and diplomacy. Lord in your mercy...

For all of those caught up in the terrors of war in Sudan and elsewhere - give them hope for peace. Lord in your mercy...

For our new king – help him to bear the burden of his office with dignity and sustain him in his duties. Lord in your mercy...

For our new councillors – may they have the strength to represent their communities fairly and seek the best local solutions. Lord in your mercy...

For ourselves – as we strive to live our lives to the full, let us remember that we are “a people set apart to sing the praises of God”. Lord in your mercy...

For all those struggling from the loss of a child, sibling, parent or friend – help them to ease their pain by finding some comfort in the words of today's Gospel. Lord in your mercy...

Let us join our prayers with Mary's as we say together Hail Mary...

We offer our own silent prayers to you.

Priest: Jesus says “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Trust in God still, and trust in me”. We make these prayers in trust through Jesus Christ, Your Son. 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