

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

Parish Priest: Fr Raphael Jones OSB

Telephone: 01254 852026 – Mobile (emergency) 07944 255541

Email: pp@brindlestjosephs.org.uk

Website: www.brindlestjosephs.org.uk

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Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time 25th June 2023

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



“Do not be afraid”

Prayer for the care of creation

Living God, have mercy on us for the times we forget that we belong to each other. You call us to be still, to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind, to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun and to be nourished by our Mother Earth. Renew us in your healing love. Inspire us to water the earth and nurture one another, so all may flourish. Together, as one family, may we always sing your praise. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD, inspired by the papal encyclical 'Laudato Si'

THIS WEEK

Sat 24 th	10.30am	Wilf Nicholson	The Birth of St John the Baptist (solemnity)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 25 th	9.30am	Pat Corrigan	
Mon 26 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 27 th	No Mass today		Feria
Wed 28 th	9.30am	Norman Jackson	St Irenaeus (memorial)
Thu 29 th	9.30am	Pope's intentions	Ss Peter and Paul (solemnity) Holyday of Obligation
	6.00pm	Wilf Nicholson	
Fri 30 th	10.30am	Requiem Mass: Sidney Holding	Feria
Sat 1 st July	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 2 nd	9.30am	Jack Ainsworth	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 24 th		L Gardner		P Cook		L Gardner	
Sun 25 th		R Conboy		J Kitchen		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 1 st		G Kellett		J Hothersall		L Lomax	
Sun 2 nd		B Cook		L Rigbye		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

Last weekend: attendance: 110, collection: £594.92 – thank you!

Readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13, Romans 5:12-15, Matthew 10:26-33.

I hear so many disparaging me "Terror on every side!" Denounce him! Let us denounce him. Even his former friends watched for Jeremiah's downfall.

On Thursday, the Church remembered those two great 16th c. English martyrs Bishop John Fisher and the ex-Chancellor Thomas More; both condemned to death by Henry VIII. How those words of the prophet Jeremiah might have rung in their ears: John Fisher, the only bishop to stand up against the King's repudiation of papal authority – how isolated he must have felt. And Thomas More for whom the King who had been his friend, turned against him.

Facing abuse and derision for proclaiming God's word, Jeremiah was able to sing to the Lord and praise his name, confident that he would be delivered from the hands of evil men.

In the face of death, John Fisher was able to say *I condemn no other man's conscience: their conscience may save them and mine must save me.*

To his daughter, Thomas More had the confidence in God to write: *'And therefore, my own good daughter, do not let your mind be troubled over anything that shall happen to me in this world. Nothing can come but what God wills. And I am very sure that whatever that be, however bad it may seem, it shall indeed be the best.'* And he told the judges who condemned him that *'we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation'.*

These days, with no threat to our faith and with the Mass of our choosing *on tap*, it is too easy to take for granted what these martyrs gave their lives for.

Here at St Joseph's, as at every church which offers daily Mass, we have the faithful few...really the very few! For others, Mass is perhaps no more than a Sunday obligation to be fulfilled and how reduced those number are.

However, it was not the Mass but papal authority that was at issue – since for all his failings, we are told that Henry VIII did have a lifelong love for the Mass.

But what these Martyrs, and Jeremiah so many years before, gave witness to, was their faith in God's loving care and protection of them and all who stand up and *declare* themselves for him in the presence of men – indeed, their lives were patterned on the life of Christ himself.

They knew that for better or for worse, all things, all events, are in God's hands, from the biggest celestial happening to the smallest microscopic event; so how much more care must he have for those created in his image such as you and me?

One should not seek martyrdom and we hope and pray as Catholics not to be *put to the test*, albeit less likely here in this relatively safe environment.

But who knows...for any of us...just around the corner...a stranger confronts us and asks 'are you a Catholic?'

What would our answer be...especially if they are masked...?

Whatever it be, let us pray to be among those whom Jesus Christ will declare in the presence of his Father in heaven because you and I declared **Him** in the presence of men.

This week's commemorations

St Irenaeus (130-202) Bishop and thought of as a martyr but not known for certain.

But he is noted, among other things, for sifting through all the different texts in order to establish which were the true and authentic accounts that now define the New Testament as it stands for us today.

Ss Peter & Paul

It is said that God writes straight with crooked lines – perhaps never more so than in choosing these two Saints to become the two great pillars of the Church.

Both were flawed characters: Peter impetuous, headstrong, so often misunderstanding Jesus and who denied him three times but who, with equal fervour, committed himself totally to him. Then Paul who on the road to Damascus underwent his famous conversion from persecuting those early Christians to becoming the foremost among them.

Both are believed to have died a martyr's death but both provide encouragement for us with our fickle faith, misunderstandings and other weaknesses. For like them, by his grace, God can straighten us out if we open the ears of our heart to hear his call.

Reflections

A toast to the King but to conscience first. (John Henry Newman)

If there is a true way that leads to the everlasting kingdom, it is most certainly that of suffering, patiently endured. (St Colette)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

There is **NO MASS ON TUESDAY** this week.

THURSDAY is the **Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul – a Holyday of Obligation**. There are Masses at 9.30am and 6.00pm. There will be a collection at both Masses for **PETER'S PENCE** which enables the Pope to respond with emergency financial assistance to requests to aid the most needy throughout the world. This can include those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression and natural disasters.

MASS ON FRIDAY will be at **10.30am** – Requiem Mass for Sidney Holding.

Thank you for last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION**. The next one will be over the weekend of **12th/13th August** – in the school summer holiday time so the increased need will still be there.

MISSALETES 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.

PLEASE PRAY for Sidney Holding who died recently, 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 28 is number 76, Brian Doran.

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.

NEXT SATURDAY (1st July), there will be a **FAMILY FUN DAY** in and around the Parish Hall from 2.00 to 5.00pm, organised jointly by the school, church and scout group. See the poster on the noticeboard for full details.

HELP REQUIRED!!! The parish contribution to the Fun Day is to run the café. We would really grateful if any parishioners could bake cakes/biscuits to sell on the day. Also if anyone is available to help for part of the afternoon, that would be appreciated. A list is at the back of church for you to sign. Thank you. Frances Fordyce and Gill Fowler.

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.

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.

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.

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

Bidding Prayers – 12th Sunday of the year – 25th June 2023

(Priest)

Despite all the challenges and opposition that we encounter in our daily lives, today we are reminded to stay steadfast in our faith and trust in God. In that knowledge, we bring the needs of the church, the world and our own needs to Him in prayer.

We pray for Francis our Pope. May he continue to inspire other church leaders to guide us carefully in our faith and bring us closer to you. Lord in your mercy...

We ask you, Lord, to help political leaders, and others whose jobs influence public opinion, to be guided by your word and become real instruments of peace and to show genuine care for our world and endeavour to protect its resources. Lord in your mercy...

For peace in the world. We pray that in those places suffering through warfare or violence, people who are divided by race, creed or political belief may come together and reach a common understanding. Lord in your mercy...

God knows every one of us, even the number of hairs on our head. Let us pray for those in our society who usually go unnoticed, but who are known by God, like the homeless, those in hospital, those in prison and the unborn. Lord in your mercy...

For all who are sick or suffering, for those who are isolated and lonely, the bereaved and those seeking meaningful employment, that they will find healing, comfort and reassurance in Christ. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the people of St Joseph's, especially our priest, teachers, parents and all those who work in the parish community and dedicate their lives to the service of God. Lord in your mercy...

We ask Mary, our mother to help us during our daily lives. We think of her as we say, Hail Mary, full of grace...

In silence, let us make our private intentions to God our Father.

(Priest)

Lord God, hear our prayers and those silently offered in our hearts through Jesus 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.