

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Houghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

## Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023

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



*“Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me”*

Jesus, friend and brother, you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.

You know the plight of the stranger who is made unwelcome.

You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.

We pray that by welcoming refugees we may show love for our neighbour and draw closer to you.

Amen.

Tony Singleton/CAFOD

# THIS WEEK

Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> July	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Jack Ainsworth	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		St Thomas (feast)
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	EBC	Feria
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For peace in the world	Feria
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Feria
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Wilf Nicholson	BVM
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	<b>Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For the Parish	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>		G Kellett		J Hothersall		L Lomax	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>		B Cook		L Rigbye		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy		B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>		L Lomax		L Gardner		P Hothersall	
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>		F Fordyce		J Slater		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	The Music Group	Children's Liturgy		L Worswick		Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

**Last weekend: attendance: 100, collection: £617.90 – thank you!**

**Readings: Kings 4:8-11, 14-16, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42.**

Hospitality links the first reading to today's Gospel: in the hospitality shown to the prophet Elisha by the woman who offers not just food and drink to sustain him on his frequent journeys that way, but even has a room prepared in which he can rest; and in the gospel, Jesus tells the twelve that anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward and anyone who offers so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, will not lose his reward.

Is this just a lesson on the importance of hospitality?

The answer lies in what Jesus says a little earlier on: *Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.*

In one of the readings for the school Mass of SS Peter and Paul last week, we heard the risen Jesus calling out to St Paul: (who was on his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians) *Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*

In other words: why are you persecuting those who carry my word, my followers...those in whose hearts I live. Before the time of Christ, it was the prophet who carried the word of God and so anyone who welcomed them, received, so to speak, a share in the reward that that prophet would receive from God; hence they received a prophet's reward.

But shouldn't *welcome and hospitality* be offered to anyone in need even if they are not a prophet, a holy person or a follower of Christ?

It is important to remember that in days past, there were no roadside cafés, shops, garages or places to stay as there are today. So, people, especially strangers had to rely entirely on the goodwill of the people whom they encountered – when a cup of cold water could mean the difference between life and death in what could be such a dry and arid climate. Moreover, hospitality to the stranger was always a reminder that they, the people of Israel, were themselves once strangers: *It is He, the Lord your God, who sees justice done for the orphan and the*

widow and who loves the stranger; giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the stranger then, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt... (Dt 10: 18-19)

Moreover, in the letter to the Hebrews, the writer tells them not to neglect to show hospitality to the stranger *for thereby some have unknowingly entertained angels.* (13:2) They might have had in mind the story from Genesis where long before the *Exodus*, Abraham and his wife Sarah unknowingly entertained angels. (Gen. Chap 18 & 19)

But in all these cases of hospitality offered to the stranger, especially the stranger doing the work of God, there is a reward: Abraham and his wife who was barren, were given the child of their dreams, as was the woman who provided for Elisha.

And those who welcome Christ's servants, especially if they welcome his word and make a home for it in their hearts, are offering welcome and hospitality to Christ himself who **is** the word. The reward, surely: blessings in this life and eternal life in the next.

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### **This week's Saint**

**Saint Thomas the Apostle** whose doubt provoked the risen Lord to say '*Blessed are they who have not seen but yet believe*' – an encouragement to us all.

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### **A Peaceful Reflection**

A great means of preserving continual peace and tranquillity of soul is to receive everything from the hands of God, both great and small and in whatever way it comes. (*St Dorotheus of Gaza*)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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**THANK YOU** to all those who worked so hard to make the **FUN DAY** such a success and also to all those who supported it in any way.

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**ASK YOUR MP TO STOP ABORTION UP TO BIRTH:** The abortion lobby is running a campaign to fully 'decriminalise' abortion, which would introduce abortion up to birth! Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to oppose the introduction of abortion up to birth. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth> to contact your MP – it only takes 30 seconds.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Hilda Warbrick who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Doreen Sherry, Bill Warbrick and Anne Chadwick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 29 is number 44, Jeanne and Keith Slater.

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### **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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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

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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.

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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.

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

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**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS:** If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplain while in hospital, please ring 01257 262713 (for Chorley hospital) or 01772 719604 (for Preston). For St Catherine's Hospice, contact Brownedge St Mary's on 01772 335168.

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### **Bidding Prayers for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 2023**

**Priest:**

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the one who sent me. With confidence, we make our prayers.

**Reader:**

We pray for the church and the Pope: may they continue to show us the true way. Lord hear us.

We pray for the world community: may we look after and protect each other. Lord hear us.

We pray for the parish community: may we grow in faith and strength. Lord hear us.

Let us remember all those in our parish who are sick, troubled, or distressed. May God's healing spirit strengthen and comfort them. Lord hear us.

We have just reaffirmed that the Lord is the Giver of Life. Let us pray that we always see God's creation in every new baby and in every expectant mother. Lord hear us.

We ask our Lady, mother of Jesus, to help us with our petitions as we say: Hail Mary...

We now pray in silence for a few moments for our own intentions.

**Priest:**

If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of the little ones because he is a disciple, I tell you solemnly, he will certainly not lose his reward. We make these prayers 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.