

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time 17th September 2023

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

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

(The Joy of the Gospel, formerly Home Mission, Sunday)



“Forgive, not seven times but seventy-seven”

God of Joy, the joy of the Gospel is such that it cannot be taken away from us by anyone or anything.

The evils of our world – and those of the Church – must not be excuses for diminishing our commitment and our fervour. Let us look upon them as challenges which can help us to grow. With the eyes of faith, we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that “where sin increased, grace has abounded all the more”.

[Prayer from Pope Francis' words 'The Joy of the Gospel' – Evangelii Gaudium, 85]

THIS WEEK

Sat 16 th	No 10.30am Mass today		Ss Cornelius and Cyprian (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship		Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 17 th	9.30am	For the sick and housebound of the Parish	
Mon 18 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 19 th	9.30am	Hazel and John Jones	Feria
Wed 20 th	9.30am	Special intention (DD)	Ss Andrew Kim Taegon and companions (feria)
Thu 21 st	9.30am	EBC	St Matthew (feast)
Fri 22 nd	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 23 rd	10.30am	Pope's intentions	St Pius of Pietrelcina (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 24 th	9.30am	For peace in the world	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 16 th		M Sherry		G Hopkinson		Not open
Sun 17 th		C Snape		B Gore		Not open
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy		L Worswick, F Fordyce	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 23 rd		G Hopkinson		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 24 th		K Snape		F Fordyce		Not open
Bidding prayers	The Music Group	Children's Liturgy		L Rigbye, J Kitchen		Collection counters J & K Slater

Last week: attendance 86.

**Last week's collection: £295.33, August standing orders: £1,065,
collection for the Catholic Education Service: £54.20 – thank you!**

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35.

One of the more obscene forms of behaviour in prison by prisoners, in my view, is the meting out of punishment, usually violent and often lethal, upon fellow prisoners for specific crimes which they have judged to be more heinous than their own; the victims are often ex-policemen or child offenders.

Judgement has already been passed by the legitimate authority and no one has the right to add their own judgement and punishment – least of all a fellow prisoner whose own behaviour has been judged unacceptable by society

It seems to me that today's readings touch on something similar, but concerning resentment, anger and especially the withholding of forgiveness: *Resentment and anger are foul things and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience vengeance from the Lord. Remember the commandments and do not bear your neighbour ill will...remember the covenant of the most high and overlook the offence. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Jesus emphasises the importance of forgiveness in today's parable which was his answer to the question put to him by Peter: *Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?* Jesus answers *Not seven, I tell you but seventy-seven times...meaning there is no limit.*

He goes on to tell the parable of a servant whose master, out of compassion, released him from the debt he could not pay but who on a later occasion was himself unable to find the same compassion for a fellow servant who owed him considerably more. He physically assaults him and has him thrown in jail. When the master hears

of this, he confronts the unforgiving servant asking why he could not have shown the same compassion he had himself received and has him tortured until all his debt is paid...*and this is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.*

Jesus' injunction to forgive is generally taken to mean in all circumstances rather than just among his own little community of disciples or just among close family or fellow Christians and God entrusts to legitimate authority the mandate to judge. But withholding forgiveness is tantamount to saying I don't judge this person worthy of forgiveness – this kind of judgement is of a different order that belongs to God alone: *Do not judge lest ye be judged.*

Withholding forgiveness enslaves and inhibits us – for we cannot truly be free if we are unable to let go of past resentments, for they hold us back from moving on.

God only knows that there are situations that make withholding judgment difficult and forgiveness nigh on impossible, but Jesus tells us that nothing is impossible for God.

Jesus tells us pray for all our needs, and so he gives us the *Our Father* which contains a number of petitions, among them, the familiar *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...*

If we find ourselves struggling in these areas, let us pray, perhaps, just that petition, as a medicine against being too ready to pass judgement on others and for when we are not feeling too ready to forgive others.

Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Reflection

Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin. (St John Paul II)

With prayers, Fr Raphael.

This week's Saints

Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest and Martyr and Companions (17th c): The Korean Church is unique because it was founded entirely by lay people. This fledgling Church, so young and yet so strong in faith, withstood wave after wave of fierce persecution. Thus, in less than a century, it could boast of 10,000 martyrs. The death of these many martyrs became the leaven of the Church and led to today's splendid flowering of the Church in Korea. Even today their undying spirit sustains the Christians of the Church of Silence in the north of this tragically divided land. (*Pope St John Paul II at the canonization of the Korean Martyrs 1984*)

St Matthew Apostle: Also called Levi in Mk and Lk and a publican i.e. collector of taxes from his fellow Jews for the Romans. He is thought to have written an early version of the Gospel that bears his name. It was while eating at Matthew's house in the company of 'sinners' that Jesus utters the reassuring words: I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners. (Mt 9:13)

St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest Padre Pio (1887-1968): Born in the village from which he takes his name he became a Capuchin friar and was very much sought after as a confessor, intercessor and spiritual advisor. He received the stigmata (the wounds of Christ suggesting divine favour). In 1956, he founded a house for the relief of suffering that serves 60,000 a year and over 100,000 attended his funeral. He was canonised in 2001.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND THE MUSIC GROUP will start again **THIS SUNDAY**.

THIS SUNDAY is **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday**, formerly known as Home Mission Sunday, when there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Margaret O'Neil, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 40 is number 66, Michael Cowsley. The next block of 10 weeks starts **NEXT WEEKEND** when subs are due.

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

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

DURING ORDINARY TIME (AUTUMN) we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

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 Sunday 17th September 2023 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, year A

Priest: Let us each forgive each other from the heart in the way that God forgives us.

Reader:

For the Church: May the guiding spirit of God lead the Pope, the Bishops and Priests to teach the laity in the true ways of God. Lord hear us...

For the world: We pray for all the people who are suffering as a result of both man-made and natural disasters. Lord hear us...

For the Community: We pray for the community of St Joseph's Parish that we can work towards helping each other and those around us in the wider community. Lord hear us...

For Governments: May all governments truly serve all their peoples and make the world a more equitable place. Lord hear us ...

For the Parish: We pray for our own Parish that we may be truly a Christian community. Lord hear us...

For ourselves: Let us seek out ways to accept the guidance of Jesus especially in forgiveness. Lord hear us...

We ask Our Lady, the Mother of Compassion, to help us with our petitions as we say: Hail Mary...

We now pray for our own needs in silence.

Priest: May we all hear the calling of the God to forgive from our heart. We make these prayers 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.