

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

Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time 24th September 2023

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

**Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for the Harvest
and the Fruits of Human Work**



“The last will be first and the first, last”

Generous God, thank you for our food. May we appreciate what we have and never take it for granted. We pray for those around the world who do not have enough to provide for their family. We pray for a good harvest, for generosity and love, as we seek a better, fairer world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Katharine O'Brien, Youth Leader, Wanstead – from the CAFOD website)

THIS WEEK

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	Margaret Rigby	
Mon 25 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 26 th	9.30am	Henry, Helena and Michael Kitchen	Feria
Wed 27 th	9.30am	Brian and Marie Spicer	St Vincent de Paul (memorial)
Thu 28 th	9.30am	Anne and Peter Chadwick	Feria
Fri 29 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (feast)
Sat 30 th	10.30am	Dom Alberic Stacpoole OSB	St Jerome (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 1 st October	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 23 rd		G Hopkinson	J Hothersall	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
Next week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop	
Sat 30 th		G Kellett	P Cook	Not open	
Sun 1 st		R Conboy	J Kitchen	Not open	
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last week: attendance 107, collection: £386.00 – thank you!

Thank you also for the collection for the Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship of £62.91

Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24,27, Matthew 20:1-16.

If the wicked man abandons his wicked ways and turns back to the Lord, would the Lord really have pity on him and forgive him?

We have a different view of God's forgiveness thanks to Jesus Christ. But the people of the time of our first reading may have struggled with it, as did Jonah who was upset when the Ninevites repented and God forgave them...he didn't believe they were worthy of forgiveness.

Yes, says the Lord, through the prophet in our first reading; for my ways are not your ways. I am rich in forgiveness, for as the heavens are as high above the earth, so are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

That God's ways are above and beyond our ways links in with Jesus' parable in today's Gospel: of the landowner who calls workers to his vineyard throughout the day, all receiving the same pay regardless of how many hours they put in.

Those who were called first complained that they were getting the same wage as those called last, to which the owner replied: *My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I not the right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?*

We are left with the thought: *Thus the last will be first and the first last.*

In the light of these readings where God seems to turn our notion of what is fair and just on its head, we may feel we are losing any sense of what **is** fair, what **is** just; I am not God yet he expects me to be able to forgive as he forgives...as we saw last week.

And last week, I mentioned prisoners who have their own 'take' of what constitutes judgment and justice which they brutally enact upon others. They are effectively saying: I may be a bad person but I am not as bad as him; reminding us of Jesus' parable where the pharisee in the temple thanks God that he is not like *that sinner* (the publican) *over there*.

How often we find a person, usually a celebrity, guilty on the basis of a preliminary accusation; or not guilty, depending on whether we like the look of them or not?

However, today's parable about the vineyard workers was Jesus' answer to a question put by Peter after Jesus had told them that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven. What about us, Peter asks; we have left everything to follow you.

Jesus replies that they will receive their reward but offers today's parable in order to warn them that others, who have not made the same sacrifices, may also receive the same reward and if you look down your noses at them, you may lose your own reward...you who were first may be last...if at all.

This parable could be directed not only to his own disciples but to the Pharisees; many of whom believed themselves to be above everyone else. (The name itself means Separated Ones.)

And it most certainly applies to you and me today as members of Christ's Church but who may be tempted to think that salvation is for us alone.

The last will be first and the first last.

And this is because of the generosity of a God who is far more forgiving and generous than we could ever be, because his ways are so far and beyond our ways.

But we are made in his image and with prayer, something of his love, forgiveness and generosity can be ours because in his humanity, Jesus Christ gives himself as the example for us to follow.

Reflection

We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become images of his Son. (St John Paul II)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This Week's Commemorations

St Vincent de Paul (1581-1680): He devoted his life to charitable works doing much for prisoners. He founded the Vincentians for the giving of missions and with the help of St Louise de Marillac, set up a congregation of women devoted to the poor and sick called the Sisters of Charity.

Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Michael is mentioned in Revelation as the leader of the heavenly host. He is patron of soldiers and his name means Who is like God.

Gabriel appears in the book of Daniel where he explains some of the prophet's visions and he it is who visits Mary at the Annunciation. His name means Strength of God.

Raphael appears in the book of Tobit – is the travelling companion of his son and who provides the cure that drives out a demon from Tobias' intended and a cure to his father's blindness. His name means The Healing of God.

St Jerome (341(or 2)-420): monk, priest and doctor of the Church who translated the best part of the bible from its original languages to Latin – it became known as the Vulgate bible. He was known for his sarcastic and cantankerous temperament. Earlier in life he had reluctantly accepted Holy Orders but apparently never said a Mass and his life was beset with argument and controversy. He was unrivalled in learning except for St Augustine who was also around at that time.

The **RELICS OF Ss COLUMBA, ANDREW AND MARGARET** will be at Brownedge St Mary's this weekend until Sunday evening. Arriving from Liverpool Cathedral before departing for Carlisle, this may be the only opportunity for you to visit and venerate the relics. On Sunday, refreshments will be available during the course of the day and a short film about the life of St Columba will be shown on a loop in the Narthex.

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 41 is number 14, Chris Bullen. The next block of 10 weeks starts **THIS 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.

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.

Bidding Prayers for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2023

Priest: Dear friends in Christ, let us pray to our heavenly Father, trusting in his generous mercy.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church, for the Pope, our Bishops and Priests as they lead the Church in the world today. We ask that through all the problems they face they will gain strength and wisdom from the enduring love and example of Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy...

Dear God, we pray not only for the victims but also for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living and the courage to reject wrong principles. Lord in your mercy...

We remember aid workers throughout the world, especially those working in places and situations that are no longer in the news. Give them the encouragement to continue their invaluable contribution of love and care for those people rebuilding their lives after man-made or natural disasters. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for all who care for children – parents, grandparents and teachers, and for those involved in fostering and adoption, that all children may be loved and cherished. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish family and friends and for our local community, that we may show our love through our respect for each other and for our environment, gladly sharing what we have with those in need. Lord in your mercy...

Now let us unite our prayers with the prayers of Our Lady – Hail Mary...

In silence we bring our own needs to God.

Priest: Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour 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.