

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time 8th October 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)

Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents



“The stone rejected by the builders became the keystone”

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen

THIS WEEK

Sat 7 th	10.00am	Confessions and Anointing of the Sick before Mass	Our Lady of the Rosary (memorial)
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	
	6.00pm	Rodney Boon	Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 8 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 9 th	No Mass today		
Tue 10 th	9.30am	Monica Chatburn	Feria
Wed 11 th	9.30am	For peace in the world	Feria
Thu 12 th	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Fri 13 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 14 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 15 th	9.30am	In thanksgiving (M O'N)	

**CONFESSIONS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00am OR BY APPOINTMENT**

This week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 7 th		L Gardner	P Fawcett	L Gardner
Sun 8 th		B Cook	J Slater	C Snape
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler	Collection counters L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 14 th		L Lomax	L Gardner	Not open
Sun 15 th		F Fordyce	L Rigbye	Not open
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters P & J Kitchen

Last week: Saturday: not recorded, Sunday: 53, collection: £288.40 – thank you!

Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43.

Today's parables of the vineyard have been described as not unlike a law suit in the way they are presented: evidence is given followed by the verdict and then the punishment.

In Jesus' parable, the evidence is presented: a landowner lovingly sets up a vineyard; planting the vines and protecting it with a fence and watchtower then leasing it to tenants.

Come vintage time, the owner sends his servants to collect the produce and one by one they are abused, even killed. He sends more servants and they are treated in the same way.

Finally, the owner sends his own son to collect the produce, confident that they would respect him, but he is killed and thrown out of the vineyard and the tenants take over the vineyard.

Such is the evidence, now what is your verdict, Jesus asks the chief priests and the elders. They answer correctly that the tenants are guilty, that, by way of punishment, they should be brought to a wretched end and that the landowner should lease the vineyard to others who **will** deliver the produce.

Our first reading (Isaiah) also tells of a vineyard, lovingly planted on a fertile hillside, clearing the ground of stones, setting up a winepress, a tower is placed in the middle and choice vines planted – but which produced nothing but sour grapes. As with Jesus' parable, the evidence is given and a verdict and punishment called for – in this case, the punishment is that the vineyard will be laid to waste.

Both parables, though years apart, are an indictment against, not so much the people, but their leaders. For Jesus was addressing the chief priests and the elders who were supposed to be the shepherds of the people; keeping them on the *straight and narrow* and leading them in the ways of God.

Jesus would have had Isaiah's parable in mind when he told his parable, and in its retelling in the subsequent years after his death and resurrection, its meaning was no less clear in the ever-changing circumstances of the early church.

So, the vineyard comes to mean the new Israel or the kingdom of God; the tenants are the negligent leaders, the servants sent by the landowner are the prophets. The sending of more servants (prophets) shows God's patience in giving the tenants (leaders) a chance to change their ways and, of course, the landowner's son is Jesus.

If we view our two parables as prophecies, we see that the Holy Land **was** laid waste by the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Prophets whom God sent to warn his people and their leaders **were** abused and killed, and his son Jesus Christ **was** taken out of the city and crucified. And the vineyard **was** handed over to other tenants; founded on the *stone rejected by the builders*... Jesus; the foundation of the new vineyard, the nascent kingdom of God.

And those parables are just as relevant today as ever they were.

Three hundred years after Christ, St Augustine chastises his fellow bishops, and no doubt priests as well, for failing to look after the people God entrusts to them: *The straying sheep you have not recalled, and the lost sheep you have not sought*. The prophet Ezekiel was saying the same thing to the leaders of his time some 500 years before Christ and we are, sadly, all too aware of accusations of neglect levelled at church leaders to this day.

Whether we think of them as tenants, shepherds, popes, bishops or priests, God has entrusted today's vineyard to their care. So let us pray that the leaders of the new vineyard listen and heed the warnings that may come from those whom we would least expect to be present day prophets of God.

For though it may not happen in our own lifetimes, God is more than capable of leasing his vineyard to other tenants, perhaps the laity, who **will** produce and deliver its fruit.

Reflection

Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to good reading, remembering that, just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary for the life of the soul. (St John XXIII)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

OCTOBER ROSARY: We will say a decade of the Rosary after weekday Masses during October.

There will be a **FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND**.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open **THIS WEEKEND** with **NEW STOCK FOR CHRISTMAS**.

CAFOD HARVEST APPEAL: As we remember, and perhaps celebrate, harvest time, CAFOD are asking us to consider those less fortunate, to eat simply for a time and to donate to their appeal. One example of the help that CAFOD gives is Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic, which gets life-saving help quickly to where it's most needed. When her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Your donations to CAFOD will help more families get the expert help they need. **Family Fast Day is this Friday**. To donate, use the envelope in your regular giving pack or take a CAFOD envelope from the back of church – these have a Gift Aid form which you can complete to enable CAFOD to reclaim the tax on the donation. Or give online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day> – this page includes a short video on the situation in Pakistan and a link so you can donate your chosen amount. Thank you!

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Malcolm Smith (who is very ill in hospital), 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 43 is number 30, Sue Schofield. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **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 7th and 8th October

Priest: Father, as we come together in worship, we ask you to listen to our prayers.

Reader: For Pope Francis – may his words inspire us to both pray and take practical action in caring for the natural environment. Lord in your mercy...

For all of those across the globe displaced from their homes through war, famine and natural disaster – give them hope for the future. Lord in your mercy...

For those who may be struggling with mental health or disability – allow them access to the care and support they need. Lord in your mercy...

St Paul tells us "if there is anything you need, pray for it". Help those in our Parish who are in any distress to seek your comfort through prayer. Lord in your mercy...

For ourselves – when it seems that reports of abhorrent behaviour bombard us on a daily basis, help us to "fill our minds with everything that is true...or worthy of praise". Lord in your mercy...

We join our prayers with Mary's as we say together: Hail Mary...

We bring our own intentions to the Lord in a few moments of silent prayer.

Priest: Father, we place our needs, hopes and fears in your hands. 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.