

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time 15th October 2023

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



“Many are called but few are chosen”

For Peace in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza

Lord of all Compassion, we pray during these difficult days for all the peoples of the Holy Land. May the gentleness of Christ prevail through the pain of conflict and mistrust, may the presence of Christ heal the wounds that are inflicted, may the hope and courage of Christ be with all who are desperate and dying, may the truth of Christ enlighten those in positions of authority to seek new ways of living that foster harmony and mutual respect, and may the peace of Christ dwell deep within the hearts of all in this, the Land of the Holy One. We ask this and all our prayers through the same, Jesus Christ, whose way is the most excellent way of love. Amen

THIS WEEK

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)	
Mon 16 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 17 th	9.30am	David Morland OSB	St Ignatius of Antioch (memorial)
Wed 18 th	9.30am	Joseph Snape	St Luke (feast)
Thu 19 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Feria
Fri 20 th	9.30am	Philip Townend	Feria
Sat 21 st	10.30am	Mary Snape	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: APF/WORLD MISSIONS		Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	John Crilly	

First Saturday of the Month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass

This 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
Next week		Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop	
Sat 21 st		M Russell	G Hopkinson	R Smith	
Sun 22 nd		L Rigbye	S Schofield	B Gore	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

Last weekend's attendance: 113

Thank for last weekend's collection of £452.40 and for September's standing orders of £1,160

Readings: Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14.

As we hear about various atrocities carried out throughout the world, we may despair of the future.

We have the atrocities of Russia against Ukraine, further complicated by the atrocities of Hamas against Israel at a time when American governance is in disarray and therefore vulnerable. These are just the main headlines of global atrocities committed against peoples and individuals which we hear and read about all the time and of course all against the backdrop of climate change, increasing costs, a health service at its wit's end and the list goes on.

But though less sophisticated, the problems Israel experienced during the time of our biblical readings were no less real than ours, maybe in some instances even worse. For example, threat to life and limb the moment you stepped out of your house; for there was no police force or social order, social services or national health service such as we have today. Google up the diseases and just see what people of the Middle East suffered from without the medical attention and jabs we have today – sadly not much has changed in many less developed countries to this day.

Moreover, the people of those days seemed constantly on a war footing with their neighbours: violent incursions from the Assyrians, the Babylonians with the displacement of peoples, invasions from the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans, who, in AD70, besieged and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple with the brutal killing of many, the violence of the Jewish rebellions, the besiege of Masada and the mass suicides that followed.

A historian might provide some correction and precision to the above, but it is into such a world that God sent his son Jesus, albeit in the comparative peace of Galilee at that time, where he grew up.

But no age has ever been without violence and upheaval.

And so, as we wonder whether peace in the world – for which we constantly pray – will ever come, we turn to Jesus as we always should, for the comfort, strength and hope that he offers to those who call upon him.

In this week's readings, we find comfort in our first reading where God gives Isaiah the vision of a holy mountain and a heavenly banquet of the finest food and drink, where there is no pain, no tears; for these have been wiped away by God himself. It is a place where violence is no more and those who are there can say: 'Yes! look! This is the God in whom we believed through all that pain and suffering – it is all true, thank God we kept the faith!'

Our psalm tells us how to get there: by taking the hand of Jesus our shepherd and allow him to lead us through all those dark valleys that beset us during this life; removing our fear and guiding us by his light of hope to that same heavenly banquet.

In so many of today's popular issue-driven soap operas, we often see story lines that present 'Truth' as being whatever society wants it to be, especially if it wins the popular vote or increases TV ratings. For example, in one of them, there was an illicit same sex wedding in an Anglican church and the final words of the vows concluded with: *according to the law of God* (or words to that effect).

What research was carried out by the scriptwriter for that story line? Is there anywhere in the bible allowing for such a marital contract as being in accordance with the Law of God? It may become so one day, if God so wills, and it may be what some people want, but where is the evidence today that this is God's will?

I mention this because Jesus' parable speaks of the *garment* needed to enter the heavenly banquet.

What is that garment if not God's unchanging 'Truth', sent into the world in the person of Christ?

This is the garment we need to be wearing if we are to enter the heavenly banquet. Not just any old garment that takes our fancy, that we just happen to run up or like the look of. We must *clothe ourselves in Christ* as St Paul tells the Galatians. (3:27)

However, we cannot hide away from the realities of the world, and part of the wearing of the garment of truth is not just our faith but also our good works in the light of Christ's teachings.

But what can we do?

In all of these upsetting issues and conflicts, whatever they are and at whatever level, whether they be local, national or global, there will always be innocent victims on both sides.

Let us remember them in our prayers and do what we can to help them, for this is what Christ did in the troubled world he was born into.

Clothed in his love and compassion, let us do the same and under his guidance, may we all reach that eternal banquet.

Reflection

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.

This Week's Saints

St Ignatius of Antioch (d 107) Not much is known about him except from his letters on his way to the martyrdom that he sincerely sought. He was to be thrown to the lions in the arena at Rome and in his letters he urged no interference with this destiny, glad to be as 'wheat ground by the teeth of the lions into the pure bread of Christ – a true sacrifice to God'.

St Luke the Greek physician and sometime disciple of St Paul who accompanied him on some of his missionary journeys. He is the author of the third Gospel and The Acts of the Apostles. His Gospel emphasises compassion, poverty, prayer and purity of heart. He is, of course, the patron of doctors.

NEXT WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the work of Missio – <https://missio.org.uk/>.

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

The Salvation Army said a big "thank you" for the bumper **FOODBANK COLLECTION** last weekend – "it was desperately needed", they said. The next collection will be over the weekend of 2nd/3rd December – let's make it another bumper one in time for Christmas.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open again **NEXT WEEKEND** and then every weekend in November.

SAFEGUARDING: In line with CSSA policy for requirements for 3-yearly DBS checks, deaneries within the Archdiocese of Liverpool now have to comply with a structured re-check that can be sustained on a 3-yearly cycle. The implementation of this plan for our deanery will commence in December.

Within the next few weeks volunteers who require a DBS certificate will be asked to complete the following 3 forms: an identification form, provide 3 documents for verification, an electronic DBS application form.

It would be much appreciated if, when you receive these forms, they are completed and returned as soon as possible. This way the re-checks for volunteers for our Deanery will be completed at the same time and become more manageable.

Thank you for all the volunteering you do for the Parish. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact Frances Fordyce, Parish Safeguarding Representative.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2023- 24: From November 2023, children in school Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be a series of 7 meetings that will take place in St Joseph's Church. These monthly meeting will be on a Thursday evening to help parents prepare their child to receive the Sacraments. The meetings are for parents and children. The 1st meeting will be on November 9th at 6pm and will last no longer than an hour.

If you wish to be enrolled as part of the Sacramental Programme and do **NOT** attend St Joseph's School, please could contact Fr Raphael or Mrs Fordyce – 07813123855/frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk.

PLEASE PRAY for Malcolm Smith who has died, 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 including David Morland OSB.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 44 is number 9, Bob Gore.

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.

Bidding Prayers for 28th Sunday - 14th/15th October 2023

Priest: Let us pray for the mission of the Church and for all our needs.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church, for Pope Francis, our Bishops and Priests, and for the people of this Parish, that we may all be guided by the Holy Spirit. Lord in your mercy..... (Hear our prayer)

Let us pray for peace in the world, particularly today for peace between Israel and the Palestinian people and for peace in Ukraine. May world leaders establish justice and peace for all people. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for the work of CAFOD and all aid agencies. May we be generous in giving of our time, prayers and money so that their work on our behalf may continue. Lord in your mercy.....

Let us pray for the sick and those who suffer in any way – the poor, the hungry and the homeless; that they may be comforted by the Holy Spirit. Lord in your mercy.....

Let us all pray that everyone who cares for the physical and spiritual needs of others may be supported by the Church. Lord in your mercy.....

We turn to Our Lady, Queen of the Rosary as we say – “Hail Mary.....”

We pause for a moment to present our private intentions to God our Father.

Priest: We offer our prayers in union with Mary, Mother of God and mother of the Church, 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.