

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time 29th October 2023 (Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)



“Love your neighbour as yourself”

We are one body, different parts, one family, spread throughout the world. We feel one hurt as war and injustice force loved ones apart. Living Christ, work through us, as we open our hearts to all those in need so that there may be one hope, one joy, one welcome in you. Amen.

(Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)

THIS WEEK

Sat 28 th	10.30am	Vocations	Ss Simon and Jude (feast)
	6.00pm	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 29 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 30 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 31 st	9.30am	Fr Theodore Young OSB	Feria
Wed 1 st November	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	All Saints (solemnity – Holyday of Obligation)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Thu 2 nd	9.30am	For peace in the world	All Souls (feast)
Fri 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 4 th	10.00am	Confessions	St Charles Borromeo (memorial)
	10.30am	For the sick of our Parish	
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sun 5 th	9.30am	Stuart Dolphin	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 28 th		M Sherry		L Gardner		Not open
Sun 29 th		K Slater		M Gardner		Not open
Bidding prayers	P Thompson	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen		Collection counters	J & K Slater
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 4 th		C Williamson		P Cook		L Gardner
Sun 5 th		C Snape		B Gore		K Slater
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last weekend: attendance: 103, collection: £352.55, APF/World Missions: £94.13 – thank you!

Readings: Exodus 22:20-26, Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40.

Those Palestinian families fleeing from their besieged town of Gaza may seem remote, even though the reality is ever present on our TV screens.

It is, of course, brought closer to home as we and other nations try to come to terms with migration in general and the influx of strangers for whatever reason upon our shores and today's readings suggest that this is nothing new.

Over one thousand years before Christ, the Lord tells Moses to tell the sons of Israel that they must not molest or oppress the stranger because they had once lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. For they were migrants there and, we may remember, they had to flee the tyranny of Pharaoh by emigrating to the Holy Land (Palestine).

The first reading, as ever, points to the Gospel in which the Pharisees again try to catch out Jesus with a question: *Master, which is the greatest of the commandments?*

Jesus' answer is familiar to us all: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment, he tells them and goes on to say that the second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself – on these two commandments hang the law and the prophets.

Jesus is quoting from the Old Testament books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus respectively so they are not new in themselves; the novelty is that he links them together. In other words, you cannot love God without loving your neighbour.

Perhaps this is because love of God alone can leave us cold-hearted and emotionally barren toward others, while love of neighbour alone may lead to lack of restraint and a controlling excessive ego... even pride.

The relevance of all this for us today is obvious: how are we to treat the stranger who comes to us seeking welcome and a new start?

St Luke gives a different account of the same story but adds the question: and who is my neighbour? Jesus replies by telling the story of *The Good Samaritan*. (Lk 10:30) For the Jews saw their duty of love extending no further than their own people and, many years before, the Samaritans had tainted themselves through intermarriage with foreigners and were considered heretics, beneath contempt and could certainly not be considered 'good'.

The care that the Samaritan extends to the man who had been robbed and left for dead answers the question: ***but who is my neighbour***, for my neighbour is anyone, especially if they are in need.

However, it is worth noting that for the Jews, even among their own people, the stranger who knocks on the door may be an enemy but who the stranger was and whether they came in peace would be established only after the welcome was made... which always involved a meal, however meagre, for it might just happen that through such a welcome, an enemy becomes a friend.

With regard to the stranger who comes to these shores, it may be that prudence requires safeguarding and general economic measures to be taken into consideration which may require painful decisions, but not before the welcome and hospitality is offered. Moreover, perhaps we all need to reflect upon the saying: *'there but for the grace of God go I'* as we consider, at least for the most of us, our more fortunate circumstances.

Jesus' teachings on love of God and love of neighbour remind us that any one of us under different circumstances, might have been the ones seeking help and refuge.

So then: Jesus' command to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind can only become flesh when we love our neighbour as ourself, meaning all people, for it is there that Jesus is present and, come judgement day, none of us want to hear his words addressed to us saying:

I was a stranger and you never welcomed me.

Reflection

Charity is the form, mover, mother and root of all the virtues. (St Thomas Aquinas)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's memorial

St Charles Borromeo (1538-84) Cardinal Archbishop of Milan.

Charles reformed the breviary, the catechism, the missal and promoted the education of the clergy. His reforms were not always well received: his aunt, a Dominican nun opposed his introduction of separation grills in convents. On visitations he had doors slammed in his face, he was fired at and a disgruntled monk tried to assassinate him. He gave much of his property to the poor, set up Sunday schools and when famine came, he fed and cared for 3,000 people from his own expenses. In his article on the CTS website, Fr Ivano Millico tells us that during that famine of 1576, Charles encouraged social distancing imposing the rule of eight within his household. He had a servant with a stick who accompanied him on his rounds ensuring safe distancing and he carried a sponge soaked in vinegar and herbs as a disinfectant with which he sanitized coins and alms given to the poor.

He set up an investigation of sorts to monitor and learn from the plague and he encouraged his priests never to cease in their ministry but to take the necessary precautions.

By 1577, case numbers were diminishing but of deaths, the figures given are 17,000 within the city of Milan and 8,000 in the surrounding countryside.

In his address at the Mass of thanksgiving for the end of the plague, St Charles said that the plague hadn't ceased due to any prudent action which he said had failed them at its start and left them bewildered and lost, neither was its end due to the skill of the physicians whom, he said, *had not yet discovered so much as the origins of this malady much less the means of counteracting it. Nor did it end due to the tender care of the sick for they, at the outbreak, were deserted by their nearest and dearest.*

No, my children no, he said. Let us never fail to acknowledge this: the ending of the plague was due to the mercy of God alone.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ends this weekend – clocks **GO BACK** an hour.

WEDNESDAY this week is the **Solemnity of All Saints, a Holyday of Obligation**. Mass will be at 9.30am and 6.00pm

It was sad that the last of the 12 **LIME TREES** had to be cut down due to serious rot. Just after they had cut it down, the tree surgeon compared for me two pieces of wood cut from the tree – one from the good part, the other from the bad. The latter was able to snap without any effort, the former quite the opposite. The consequences of its collapse don't bear thinking about. I would be grateful if you would explain these realities to those upset by its loss. Much appreciated.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS and at Mass on Thursday and again next weekend, we will remember especially the following who died during the last 12 months:

Leonard Bradley	Martha Garstang	Maureen Dignon	Agnes Wrathall	Angela Duncan
Margaret Botham	Ann Lumb	Roger Powell	David Haydock	Susan Moon
Sidney Holding	Hilda Warbrick	Doreen Sherry	Anne Chadwick	Monica Bolton
Malcolm Smith	Margaret Hindle	Gerald Bolton		

Following long-standing Church custom, there will be a Mass Intention box for the departed in front of the altar throughout November. Please place the intention and donation into the box and Holy Mass will be said for them each week throughout the month.

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: Starting next week, children in school Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. There will be a series of 7 meetings that will take place in St Joseph's Church. These monthly meetings will be on Thursday evening to help parents prepare their child to receive the Sacraments and are for both parents and children. The first meeting will take place **NEXT THURSDAY, 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 contact Fr Raphael or Mrs Fordyce – 07813123855/frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk.

PLEASE PRAY for Margaret Hindle who died recently, for those who are sick or housebound including Rose Higginson, Fr Jonathan Cotton OSB and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 46 is number 12, Paul Cook.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: The 'Light the Blue Touch Paper and... Tour' is an autumnal return for the local fundraising musical trio. There will be a set of favourite offerings plus one or two new songs. All the funds will go to a very special but small project, the Zambia Society Trust. The lads will guarantee that all the money will go directly to the people in need of some help in schools and in a hospital as the charity involved doesn't have any paid staff. Anything raised will help buy simple supplies such as pencils, workbooks and bandages/dressings and these are taken out by volunteers at their expense. The gig is at the Parish Hall **THIS FRIDAY AT 7.30PM**.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY This will take place **THIS TUESDAY** from 9:30am to 11:00am. For more information, please telephone (01254) 853473 or email secretary@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

BIDDING PRAYERS

Trusting in God's love and mercy we pray for our needs and the needs of people everywhere.

We pray for the Church throughout the world. May all her members remain strong in faith, hope and courage in these difficult times. Lord in your mercy.....

Let us offer our prayers for peace in the world. We pray especially for all the innocent victims who are suffering in Ukraine, Gaza and Israel. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for all who have been affected by floods in our country and throughout the world. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for our parish community, and for those who are suffering through sickness, worry or sorrow. May our prayers comfort and encourage them and those who care for them. Lord in your mercy.....

We ask Our Lady to pray with us as we say together: Hail Mary.....

In silence let us pray for our own intentions.

Loving Father accept the prayers we offer 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.