

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

(Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 3)

## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY



*“Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name”*

### **Prayer for World Communications Day**

O God, whose word is truth and in whose light we see light, guide those who tell the story of our times through word and image. Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human dignity. Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours, and, as we confront the pain and promise of this world, awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence and of longing for your peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

# THIS WEEK

Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bob Moffatt	Saturday of Easter 6
	<b>SECOND COLLECTION: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS</b>		<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Margaret Atherton	
	11.00am	<b>Baptism: Harley Victor Kris Snape</b>	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		The Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King (feast)
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Dave McKay (who is sick)	St Matthias (feast)
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	The welfare of our schools	Wednesday of Easter 7
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Thursday of Easter 7
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass: Kathleen Bamber</b>	Friday of Easter 7
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	EBC	Saturday of Easter 7
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Pentecost</b>
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	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 11 <sup>th</sup>		L Lomax		L Gardner		Open	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>		K Slater		M Gardner		Open	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	The Music Group	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	L Worswick	<b>Collection counters</b>	L & M Gardner		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>		L Gardner		G Hopkinson		Open	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>		K Snape		B Gore		Open	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	Fr Raphael	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	<b>Collection counters</b>	B Kellett & M Russell		

**Last weekend: attendance: 100, collection: £309.90 – thank you!**

**Readings: Acts 1:15-17,20-26, 1 John 3:11-16, John 17:11-19.**

*The Lord has set his sway (or throne) in Heaven and his kingdom is ruling over all.*

This line from today's psalm suggests that from his heavenly domain, which could never be seen however powerful the telescope or indeed the microscope, God rules all that exists.

That is to say, God rules a universe 93 billion light years across containing more stars than there are grains of sand on the planet, some of these stars have a radius thousands of times larger than our own sun and God has been running it all for over 13 billion years.

These and many more figures, are all 'out there' on the internet and they vary by a few billion years, but they all point to the mind-blowing immensity of the universe and of how small and frail our little earth and sun are by comparison – though, of course, it is all relative depending upon whether we are looking through a telescope, a microscope, whether you are the smallest particle or the largest galaxy or of course, whether you are God.

Yet, in all its immensity, it cannot be compared with the power and sublimity of **God's kingdom** from where he rules from his holy throne ... these are simply images attempting to express the inexpressible.

If we feel lost, insignificant or even terrified at the mass of matter swirling around us as far and further than the eye can see, let us look again at today's psalm to find some comfort.

The Church presents only three of its ten verses for us today and we have heard ...

*... For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him.*

It also says ...

*... The Lord has pity on those who fear him; for he knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flowers like the flower of the field; the wind blows and he is gone and his place never sees him again,*

## ***But the love of God is everlasting upon those who hold him in fear ...***

There are those who, though trying admirably to make sense of the universe, cannot make sense of their own lives within it regarding its purpose and meaning. There seems to be a reluctance to ask the fundamental question: *why is there anything at all rather than nothing?*

God gives us a reason through the words of the psalmist: my love for you is greater than all that you can see and cannot see around you ... it is greater than anything you can imagine ... that is to say; my love for you Margaret, for you John, for you Carol, for you Frank, for each one of us as individuals, but also as a family or community of faith ... I love you more than you can know.

And so, in our first reading, against the backdrop of supernova, of quarks, black holes and quantum physics – albeit yet to be discovered – we have a group of believers still recovering from their encounter with the risen Lord and his last instructions to them before disappearing from their sight, trying to organize themselves in such manner as to be able to spread this *Good News* of God's love for his poor creatures made of dust ... the same message given all those years before to the psalmist.

And the most important part of their message of God's love for the world is that, from his holy throne, God himself entered into his own domain, as St John would say ... *the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, giving to all who believe in his name, the power to become children of God.*

God's kingdom is ruling over all and his rule is the rule of love.

It is through our love for one another that we are members of his kingdom as it grows and becomes visible through each one of us as part of Christ's body for it is *in him that we too, shall reign.* (CCC 2816 *St Cyprian*)

So, rather than being an insignificant speck of dust upon a bit of grit floating through this vast sea of space, through God's choice of us and our response to him, we have been elevated as members of the heavenly kingdom which rules over all creation.

It is difficult even with God's help, but these considerations should bring us some comfort, less anxiety and hopefully, joy.

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### **Reflections**

***From the beginning of his public life Jesus chose certain men, twelve in number, to be with him and to participate in his mission. He gave the twelve a share in his authority and sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. They remain associated for ever with Christ's kingdom, for through them he directs the church.*** (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] 1994 No. 551)

***As my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*** (Lk 22: 29-30)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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### **This Week's Feasts**

#### **Feast of the Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King**

The Cathedral reminds us that the little parish or community of faith here at St Joseph's is part of the larger community of parishes that make up the (arch) diocese of Liverpool where resides the Bishop who rules from his *Cathedra* (chair/throne) uniting us all as one community of faith.

The building itself is obviously a place for gathering for prayer and praise of God as all churches are. But, built of stones bonded by cement, it is also an outward sign of its members themselves living stones and bonded in the love of Christ...the King.

**St Matthias.** After the Ascension of our Lord, Peter proposed the need to replace Judas Iscariot with someone who had been with them from the beginning of Jesus' ministry to the Ascension. Matthias and Joseph (Barsabbas) Justus were chosen. They prayed and drew lots and the lot fell to Matthias and he becomes one of the twelve Apostles. (Acts 1:15-26).

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**MASS ON FRIDAY** this week is at **10.30am** – Requiem Mass for Kathleen Bamber.

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**THIS SUNDAY IS WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY** when we are asked to pray for, and support financially if possible, the work of the Catholic Communications Network. More information at [www.cbcew.org.uk/world-communications-day/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/world-communications-day/). You can find Pope Francis' message for today in the "Downloads" section of our website.

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**MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY** and we will say a decade after weekday Masses throughout the month.

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In the **BOOKSHOP**, there is new stock of cards and gifts for **FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**.

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**SUMMER FAMILY FUNDAY** at the Parish Hall on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** from 2.00 to 5.00pm. More details soon!

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**GRAVEYARD:** As the growing season begins, please could we avoid planting shrubs or any other plants or placing any items in front of graves which might prohibit the passing of a lawn mower and to remember with thanks our volunteers who try to keep the graveyard in good order for you.

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Ask your MP to support the **ABORTION TIME LIMIT AMENDMENT** and oppose abortion up to birth. Email your MP before the debate on Wednesday this week (15<sup>th</sup> May) by visiting <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters> and <https://righttolife.org.uk/uptobirth>.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Kathleen Bamber who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Maureen Spencer, Isaac Wilson, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**DURING EASTER we are asked to pray for:** New Members of the Church; Human Work; Vocations; Survivors of Abuse; The Right Use of the Media; the Church.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 22 is number 63, Greg Gorrell. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

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**Leeds Male Voice Choir** will perform at **BROWNEGE ST MARY'S next Saturday** (18<sup>th</sup> May) at 2.00pm – entry by donation. See the poster on the noticeboard for more details.

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**ESCORTED TOUR TO WESTPORT, KNOCK AND CO MAYO**, 16<sup>th</sup> June. £899pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

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### **Bidding Prayers – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (World Communications Day)**

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit onto His disciples. Please Lord, send us the gifts needed by today's disciples to carry out your work.

Let us pray for everyone whose task it is to pass on the Good News about Jesus Christ, especially parents, teachers, bishops and priests. Lord in your mercy...

We ask you Lord to help political leaders to hear your word and become real instruments of peace and justice. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the people of Israel and Gaza that peace may soon come to this war-torn part of the world. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for young people, who have access to social media in a way no other generation ever did. May God grant them the wisdom to use this technology in a positive manner. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all the people of this parish, especially those who are unwell, or feeling lonely or unhappy. We pray that our prayers will bring them comfort. Lord in your mercy...

As the Easter season draws to a close, may the spirit of Easter and new life remain with us. Let us pray that the good works and charity of our church community continue, especially towards the needy among us preparing for the birth of a child. Lord in your mercy...

Let us ask Mary, the Mother of the Lord, to pray for us, as we say: Hail Mary...

In silence we pray for our own intentions.

Lord, help us to hear and obey your command: 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation'. We ask this and all our 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.