

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Pentecost Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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



*“Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth”*

### **Prayer for Pentecost Sunday**

Whirlwind Spirit of God, roar through our timidities and fears, shake the foundations of our ill-placed securities, sweep away the cobwebs of our apathy, blow down the walls that separate us, one from another.

Then into all our empty spaces, breathe re-strengthened courage to challenge injustice, renewed belief in the urgency of our vocation, revitalised passion to change our lifestyles, re-dedication to speak only words that build and unite.

Let gentle breeze and still small voice become in us today mighty wind and loud proclamation. Make of us a Pentecost people! Amen.

*(Kathleen O'Brien/CAFOD)*

# THIS WEEK

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	
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Mary, Mother of the Church (memorial)
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Norman Jackson	Feria (week 7)
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Maureen Seacombe	Feria
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Anne and Peter Chadwick	Our Lord, Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (feast)
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Margaret Holden	St Bede (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	For peace in the world	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>		L Gardner		P Fawcett		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		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>		M Russell		L Gardner		Open	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>		R Conboy		F Fordyce		Open	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	L Russell	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	F Fordyce, G Fowler	<b>Collection counters</b>	J & K Slater		

**Last weekend: attendance: 104, collection: £295.13, World Communications: £44.65 – thank you!**

**Readings: Acts 2:1-11, Galatians 5:16-25, John 15:26-27,16:12-15.**

St Paul tells the Galatians: *If you are guided by the Holy spirit, you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit ...*

He then lists the kinds of behaviour for those not guided by the spirit: fornication, gross indecency, idolatry and jealousy among others. And in the *Sequence*, we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us away from such behaviour and to give us the life and joy that never ends.

It is the *Coming* of the Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, that we celebrate on this, the feast of Pentecost. It is the Holy Spirit who communicates God's love to Christ's followers and, through them, to the world.

On Tuesday we celebrated the feast of St Matthias, chosen by the Holy Spirit to replace Judas as the twelfth member of the apostles.

Twelve reflects the twelve tribes of Israel and, through the apostles and the grace of the Holy Spirit, the *New Israel*, the Church, was born and, through it, the Holy Spirit continues to communicate God's love to his people.

And so, Pentecost Sunday is also designated as *World Day of Social Communications* allowing us to reflect upon the eye-watering speed and progress of today's modes and development of communication.

Earlier in the year, Pope Francis wrote a pastoral letter for this day, carrying the themes of *Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: towards a fully Human Communication*.

Among many other things including its benefits, he says that in order to avoid the misinformation, misrepresentations and all the other aberrations of truth that *artificial intelligence (AI)* is capable of, it will never replace the human heart wherein lies the wisdom that existed *before all created things*. (*Sir 1:4*) It is from this place, the human heart, that true communication lies because that is where the Holy Spirit of Wisdom resides – a Spirit that *AI* could never possess.

Bishop John Arnold of our neighbouring diocese of Salford, obviously agrees about the dangers of AI but, if rightly used he says, it can be of amazing value and he give the example *Magisterium AI*.

This *App* is an on-line encyclopaedia of the Catholic Church which, like *other research engines* allows you to key in a request – in this case, anything about the church, its traditions and teachings and so forth – and after a short pause, it produces the answer.

I have had a go with it though not exhaustively, and it found correct answers to the couple of questions I posed, though it may be wise, on occasion, to cross-reference with other resources – which one should probably always do when researching on the internet.

On this Pentecost/Communication Sunday, I thought it fitting to mention this *App* with the bishop's recommendation because there are those who have, perhaps, for the most part of their lives, been plagued with burning questions about the faith and church teaching that had been just *drilled* into them without question.

Well, now you can question and hopefully get the right answer, for, as the bishop says, the *teaching of the church has become accessible, and at great speed – 24/7*.

Of course, as with all technologies and as has been noted, they can be used for good or for ill.

Let us pray that all of our technological and moral endeavours be informed by the Holy Spirit of Pentecost, who speaks from the sanctity of the human heart.

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## Reflections

***Grace does not work like a penny in the slot machine. Grace will move you only when you want it to move you, and only when you let it move you. The supernatural order supposes the freedom of the natural order but does not destroy it.*** (Ven. Fulton Sheen)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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## This Week's Commemorations:

**Mary, Mother of the Church** is a celebration only added to the universal calendar in 2018 which helps us to remember that: '...growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross; to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Redeemed for she is the Virgin who makes her offering to God.' (From the Decree.)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest** reminds us of His Priestly mediation between God and man, heaven and earth and our participation in His ministry.

**St Bede the Venerable** (673-735) monk of monasteries in Wearmouth and Jarrow, Sunderland, where he spent the rest of his life. He is famous, especially among scholars, for his Ecclesiastical History of the English People.

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**WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** Harley Snape who was baptised last Sunday.

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**MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY** and we 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. Free entry, free parking. Fun and games, bar and refreshments, inflatables, raffle, entertainment, market stalls, face painting and much more! We would be grateful for **HOMEMADE CAKES** and/or muffins for our cake stall – please add your name to the list at the back of church if you can help. Also, **RAFFLE TICKETS** will be on sale after Mass each weekend. Thank you in advance!!!

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

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**DURING ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER)** ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 23 is number 62, Loz Lomax. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

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We currently have an opportunity for members of our parish community to become **FOUNDATION GOVERNORS** at our Primary School.

**What does being a Foundation Governor involve?** Foundation Governors are practising Catholics who are appointed by Liverpool Archdiocese. Foundation Governors have a specific duty, different from other Governors, to primarily safeguard the Catholic ethos of our school. They volunteer their time to work as part of a Governing Board to challenge and support our school to ensure it provides the highest quality education possible to its pupils. They set the vision for our school, support its strategic direction and approve the school budget.

**What does this involve?** Attending an evening meeting each half term (2 hours maximum) and reading papers beforehand in order to be able to ask questions within the meeting. Each of our Governors is also linked with an area of the curriculum and meets with the Lead for that area each term for an hour and can also be linked to a particular class. There is a comprehensive training programme that our school purchases each year in order to support our Governors within their role and two compulsory training courses that must be completed annually (a commitment of about two hours).

**What skills do I need to have?** Parishioners who have skills, experience or a background in education are always helpful, as are any parishioners who have experience in Finance, Health and Safety, Buildings, HR or Technology. The skills that are most important though are a knowledge of our local community and the ability to read the information that is presented to us and use that information to ask questions to ensure that our school continues to develop.

**What do Governors not do?** Governors are not involved in the day-to-day, operational running of the school and they do not represent the views of any particular stakeholders within the community such as parents or organisations within the local area.

If any parishioners are interested in volunteering their time to support their parish and parish school, please do speak to me in the first instance.

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### **Pentecost Bidding Prayers**

**Priest:** In prayer, let us turn to our heavenly Father with all our needs.

**Reader:** Through the Church of Christ, may the Holy Spirit of Pentecost unite all peoples in the one language of love. Lord, in your mercy ...

Among the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the gifts of wisdom, understanding and right judgment. May the minds and hearts of world leaders be awakened and guided by such precious gifts. Lord, in your mercy ...

Among the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, peace, patience, goodness, kindness and self-control. May these be among the guiding principles of those who seek redress of injustice through protest and in our own lives. Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for those, especially of our parish, who are suffering through illness, family issues, depression, loneliness and the frustration of long-awaited medical treatments. May they receive from the Spirit the gift of courage and the fruits of patience and endurance. Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray that the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit help us all to serve the poor, the broken and the unborn. Lord, in your mercy ...

Let us unite all our prayers with those of Mary our Mother, as together we say: Hail Mary ...

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, as this special time of Eastertide draws to a close, may all that we have seen, heard and reflected upon, not fall like seed on to stoney ground or shallow soil. Instead, may it awaken within us a lively faith and a desire to do good in the world, after the example of 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.