

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd June 2024 (Sunday cycle year B, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 4)



“Quiet now! Be calm!”

A Prayer for the General Election

God of grace and truth, in Jesus you embody your choice of us. Bless all who make choices in this general election. Clothe your people with gratitude for the right to choose our government, and turn that gratitude into clear choices. Give those who vote your spirit of wisdom and understanding. Uphold all who stand for election: preserve their dignity, and guide them in the path of integrity. Renew this nation in honour for the stranger, respect for the different, and cherishing of diversity. When all the votes are counted, show us ways to foster the flourishing of all and be a blessing to our neighbours. In the name of Christ and the power of your Spirit. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 22 nd	10.30am	Vocations	Ss John Fisher and Thomas More (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 23 rd	9.30am	Hilda Warbrick	
Mon 24 th	No Mass today		The Birth of St John the Baptist (solemnity)
Tue 25 th	9.30am	Robert Booth	Feria
Wed 26 th	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Thu 27 th	9.30am	EBC	Feria
Fri 28 th	9.30am	Holy souls	St Irenaeus (memorial)
Sat 29 th	10.30am	Finbar Kealy OSB	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: PETER'S PENCE		Ss Peter and Paul
	6.00pm	Peace in the world	
Sun 30 th	9.30am	For the Parish	

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

This week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 22nd	L Gardner	G Hopkinson	Not open
Sun 23rd	K Slater	S Schofield	Not open
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick
			Collection counters
			B Kellett & M Russell
Next week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 29th	G Hopkinson	L Gardner	L Lomax
Sun 30th	C Snape	M Gardner	B Gore
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen
			Collection counters
			J & K Slater

Last weekend: attendance: 107, collection: £359.90, Day for Life £107.07 – thank you!

Readings: Job 38:1.8-11, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Mark 4:35-41

Job and his comforters try to explain God's purposes in afflicting Job with so much suffering and our first reading has God responding from the tempest. In today's snippet, God uses the sea to make his point to Job: when **you** have the power to control the sea (and all the other elements) the way I can, then level your criticisms at me...

The psalm too reflects and praises God's awesome power over the waters preparing us for today's gospel.

Jesus and his disciples are in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee when a storm is whipped up, threatening to sink the boat. Jesus is asleep and seemingly disinterested so they wake him: Do you not care? We are going down! He wakes, calms the storm with a rebuke and then rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith. The event leads them to question who is this that even the wind and sea obey him.

The Church may be seen as a ship sailing through the centuries; sometimes during times of calm but more often during times of turbulence, struggling against the winds of opposition, persecution and so forth.

For us here today, it is a different crisis, for as you know, there is a shortage of priests and religious; and church congregations have been diminishing over many years, at least in this country.

Bishops have had to amalgamate parishes, close church buildings and so forth, so that many, if not most, priests are running more than one parish.

Abbots like bishops have the same problem: too many commitments for the number of priests or brethren available to properly take care of them.

Sixteen years ago, I came to Brindle St Joseph's believing that I would not be here for long because Ampleforth could no longer maintain all the parishes, for we simply had not the personnel to do it. A *Chapter* decision was to start the sad process of relinquishing parishes – Brindle being one of the first to be let go. You may remember

Abbot Cuthbert speaking of this on his *Visitation* about that time: 'to take care of your parish priest because he will be the last Ampleforth could afford to send'.

In the event, while other parishes were relinquished, I have remained here for 16 years – that is not a bad *innings* even by diocesan standards.

But there is now a need for that chapter vote to be enacted as the Abbot finds himself trying to find answers for a shrinking community and obligations to our remaining parishes closer to the monastery.

All I can tell you at this point is what some of you already know because you have helped me in my struggle to come to terms with it over the last two years ...

... namely, that from January 2025, discussions will take place between Ampleforth and the diocese for the handing over of the pastoral care of Brindle St Joseph's by August 31st 2025.

During his Visitation in October of this year, the Abbot will clarify and explain further the reasons why this must happen and what the stages of handover will be.

As for myself, I return to Ampleforth by the end of August 2025.

The reason for telling you this now, before the Abbot's visit in October, is because the deanery needs to consider various scenarios as it considers its own future.

So, to conclude: Abbot Robert will come and address you during his October Visitation and discussions concerning the handing over of pastoral care of St Joseph's to the Archdiocese of Liverpool will begin in January 2025 with a view to my return to Ampleforth by the end of August 2025.

What do we do in the meantime?

We carry on, always open to the Spirit and take to heart, each one of us, the words of St Paul in today's second reading: *for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old one has gone and now the new one is here.*

Every change is a new beginning for those open to the Spirit and everyone needs to play their part if we are to show that this parish is vibrant, alive and active in the Spirit.

But most importantly, despite these choppy waters: to remember in whose ship we sail, who is really in charge and to call upon Him for guidance.

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael

This week's commemorations

The Birth of St John the Baptist whom Jesus called the greatest of all the children born of woman. If all the prophets of old were pointing toward Christ, St John is the one who finally points him out: 'Behold the Lamb of God'.

St Irenaeus (130-202) Bishop and thought of as a martyr but not known for certain.

But he is noted, among other things, for sifting through all the different texts in order to establish which were the true and authentic accounts that now define the New Testament as it stands for us today.

PLEASE PRAY for the young people from our Parish who will be **CONFIRMED** this Wednesday evening at St Joseph's, Harper Lane, Chorley.

GENERAL ELECTION: CAFOD and the SVP ask for your help to answer Pope Francis' call to support the most vulnerable by contacting your parliamentary candidates before the General Election. They've made it easy – just follow this link on CAFOD's website and you can use the prepared email or amend it, and when you send it, it will reach all your candidates: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/150354/action/1>. Cardinal Nichols and the Bishops Conference are urging us to voice our support for the most vulnerable and the environment too.

Please take great care while the **SCAFFOLDING** is in place around the church. We apologise for any inconvenience that this essential maintenance may cause.

MISSALETTES FOR SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME can be used on ferial days of the same week – the readings, psalm and Gospel acclamation will be different but the antiphons and prayers are the same.

NEXT WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION for Peter's Pence provides essential support for the Holy See's activities and helps Pope Francis assist the victims of wars, oppression and natural disaster around the world.

Thank you for last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION**. The next one will be over the weekend of 10th/11th August. During the school holidays, many families will not have access to free school meals and, therefore, the demand on foodbanks will be even greater than usual.

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

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.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 28 is number 24, Cathy Kershaw.

The **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS** have been updated. Each bag is now themed around certain bible tales or topics and contains a variety of resources including soft toys, finger puppets, colouring sheets and puzzles to help the children learn more about their faith. We hope that these bags will be developed as more resources are found and that they will be enjoyed. We ask that they are shown the same care as has gone into them – thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make last weekend's **PARISH FUN DAY** such a success. There are some photos on the Parish website.

There will be a meeting to establish a new Preston Branch of the **SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN** on Saturday 6th July at 1.00pm at the Preston SPUC Office which is at Unit 10, Lockside Office Park, Lockside Road, Preston, PR2 2YS. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. For further details, contact Terry Graham, SPUC Northern Development Officer on 07549068226 or by email at terrygraham@spuc.org.uk.

Bidding Prayers – 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time 2024, year B

Priest: Loving Jesus, we bring our prayers and petitions to you.

Reader: We hear in today's Gospel how Jesus calmed the storm. May we know that God is with us, especially in difficult times. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may bring comfort and support to all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are out at sea, be it for work, enjoyment or as refugees seeking a new place of safety: that God may watch over them and keep them safe from storms. Lord, In your mercy...

We pray for world leaders and for the leaders of our country especially at this time. May the appointed government strive to make our country a good and decent place to live. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all people whose loved ones have died, who are sad, lonely or who are afraid: that they may find the support and comfort that they need from others. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be there for those who need our help, sharing God's love and comfort with each other. Lord, in your mercy...

Let us think about all those in need as we turn to Mary our Mother and say: Hail Mary...

In silence, we place our own concerns before the Lord.

Priest: Loving Father accept these prayers. We ask this 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.