

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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## Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

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



*“Love your neighbour as yourself”*

Eternal God, teach us to love you not only in mind and heart but also in purpose and action, that we may love the children of the earth, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Confessions	All Souls
	10.30am	All the faithful departed (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Barbara Phelan	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Deceased of the Parish	<b>Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
	11.00am	<b>Baptism: Leo Oliver Charlton</b>	
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		St Charles Borromeo (memorial)
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Feria
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No 10.30am Mass today</b>		Dedication of the Lateral Basilica (feast)
	6.00pm		<b>Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Remembrance Sunday)</b>
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.30am</b>		

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>		M Sherry		P Fawcett		P Hothersall	
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>		K Slater		J Slater		C Snape	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	L Gardner	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	A Fowler, B Gorrell		<b>Collection counters</b>	L & M Gardner	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>		L Lomax		P Cook		L Lomax	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>		C Snape		L Rigbye		B Gore	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	G Hopkinson	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	L Worswick, C Curwen		<b>Collection counters</b>	B Kellett & M Russell	

**Last weekend: attendance: 118, collection: £443.60 – thank you!**

**Readings: Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34.**

In today's Gospel, a scribe or lawyer asks Jesus which is the first of all the commandments.

Jesus replies: *Listen Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.*

In his answer, according to this gospel, Jesus couples together two commandments given to Moses: one from Deuteronomy as we have seen, the other (love of neighbour) from Leviticus.

The question was, which is the **first** of all the commandments ...?

The first three of the ten commandments: to honour God, to honour his name, to keep the sabbath holy, are directed toward God himself, the rest are about honouring and respecting other people in various ways.

In effect, Jesus summarizes all of them as love of God and love of neighbour in that order of priority.

But what do we mean by love and what did Jesus mean?

Perhaps, more has been written in song, prose and verse about love than on any other subject, but its meaning still eludes most of us.

The hippies of the sixties tried to define it, through the haze of whatever they were on, as peace, love (luv) and that anything goes so long as you are not hurting anybody.

Others say that love is wishing the well-being of others and that while we need not be obliged to 'like' everybody, we must, nevertheless 'love' them which still leaves the actual sense of what love means, vague.

All of these, and many more, have some truth in them but look at what happens when the notion of love excludes God: **abortion, assisted dying** and **euthanasia**, advocated in the current political climate by good and kind people who wish for the well-being of others.

But both Moses and Jesus (earlier in this gospel) quote the fifth commandment: you shall not kill.

Unfortunately, the Catholic Church is not unfamiliar with violence and killing in its long and chequered history but as it gropes its way toward *Truth* – led by the *Spirit of Truth*, it leaves old ways behind. For example, recent popes have spoken against capital punishment though it is not quite explicitly forbidden in *The Catechism*. (CCC 2267)

But its overall teaching on the rights and dignity of God-given human life, has been consistent; not because the church has made this up, but because God himself tells us so.

To return to the question: *which is the first of the commandments?*

Jesus' answer: to love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and only after that, to speak of neighbour; puts God first and centre which provides us with an *objective* guide to the meaning of life and especially, the meaning of love.

The alternative is to be guided by a well-meaning but misguided secular social conscience, itself subject to the ever-changing whims and fancies of the age.

To summarize: it is in the revelation of God's will for us in Jesus that we find the fullest expression of what love is and means.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that all who believe in him may have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

And he teaches us the meaning of love by his example of selfless and forgiving service to others to the point of giving all that he could, which was for him ... his life.

He asks us to do the same as best we can and gives us the grace to help us.

The meaning of love then, can only be found in Jesus who is in his person, the perfect expression of God's love for you, for me and for the world.

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## Reflections

*All our religion is but a false religion, and all our virtues are mere illusions and we ourselves are only hypocrites in the sight of God, if we have not the universal charity for everyone: for the good and for the bad, for the poor and for the rich and for all those who do us harm, as much as those who do us good.* (St John Vianney)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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## This week's commemorations

**St Charles Borromeo (1538-84) Cardinal Archbishop of Milan.** He 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 at his own expense.

**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (c324)** The Cathedral Church of Rome built on the site of an ancient palace belonging to the family of the Laterano. The original Basilica was built by the Emperor Constantine in 324 and given to the Bishop of Rome where they presided until the 14th cent. The present one, dedicated to St John, is where the Pope has his Seat as Bishop of Rome. It is the Mother and Head of all the churches in the city and throughout the world, and is therefore the sign of unity.

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There are **NO MASSES THIS WEEK** – I am away and work is being done on the window frames.

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**MASS NEXT SUNDAY** will be at **10.30am** to allow those who attend time to get back from the Remembrance Day Service at Hoghton Cenotaph.

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**IN THE LIVING ROOM – THE CRISPY LEAF TOUR.** Next **Saturday**, 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Parish Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. £5 entrance with all proceeds going to charity. Bring your own tipples for an evening of Autumnal Songs. Brave the dark for a grand night of music and friends.

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**NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS** and at Masses this weekend, we will remember especially the following who died during the last 12 months:

Francis Elliott	Geoffrey Thompson	May Elliott	Rosaline Higginson	Jack Morton
Rita Gorrell	Frances Cartlidge	Kathleen Bamber	Monica Summerville	Maureen Spencer
Maurice Evans	Dorothy Hartley	Rory McDonald		

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. I would be grateful if you would make it clear whether the donation is for a November intention or another Mass intention. Donations can also be posted through the presbytery letterbox if that is more convenient for you. Thank you.

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**ST JOSEPH'S QUO VADIS REPORT.** At the back of church, and in the "Downloads" section of our website, this report comes from the questionnaires that were distributed sometime last year. Even though there wasn't a big response, it does give a flavour of what people were thinking about the Parish. If you have any thoughts or questions either send them to [info@brindlestjosephs.org.uk](mailto:info@brindlestjosephs.org.uk) or have a chat with Bren Cook.

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**SAFEGUARDING RECHECK AUDIT.** DBS rechecks for all parishioners that require one are now due. Within the next 5 weeks packs of relevant paperwork will be distributed to those who require DBS rechecks and verification will take place. Explanation of documents required will be included in packs. The time limit for this audit to take place is quite tight and I would be very grateful if, when you receive a recheck pack, you complete it and return it as soon as possible. Thank you for all you do. Frances Fordyce (Church Safeguarding Representative)

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**DURING OCTOBER,** we will say a decade of the **ROSARY** after weekday Masses.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for those who are sick or housebound including Ray Jackson, Marie Spicer, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 47 is number 67, Mary Nickson.

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**BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY** – limited places available. Open 8.30am-3.30pm. 15 & 30 hour government funding for 3 & 4 year olds accepted. All local primary schools served. Contact: 07956242409 or email [nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk).

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**During Ordinary Time (Autumn)** ie from September to Christ the King, 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.

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**EARLY CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** Red Admiral Music Academy Brass Band are to give an early Christmas concert on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, from 2.00pm until 4.30pm in St Chad's Church, Town Lane, Whittle-le-Woods, PR6 8AJ. Tickets are £10 each for adults, no charge for children, and includes light refreshments. The tickets can be reserved from Angela Derbyshire 07761 983041 or Ann Billington 07708 992621.

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**TRINITY METHODIST, GREGSON LANE – CRAFTY CHRISTMAS MARKET.** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00am to 3.00pm. Free admission. Crafts, gifts, cakes, books and more. Raffle and tombola. Free children's crafts. Collectable and vintage stall.

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### **Bidding Prayers for 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, in trust and hope we offer our prayers for ourselves and for the world.

**Reader:** We pray for all the Church that we may always keep the love of God at the centre of our lives. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for an end to conflict in the world particularly in the Middle East and Ukraine, and for leaders to work together for peace and reconciliation among nations. Lord in your mercy....

For our parish community that we always do our best to love our neighbours by prayers, friendship and, where possible, acts of kindness. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for Leo Oliver Charlton who will be baptised tomorrow/today and for his family. Lord in your mercy....

As the Church has commemorated the Feast Days of All Saints and All Souls these last two days, we ask Almighty God to especially care for all those approaching the end of their lives. May they be granted a peaceful, natural death with dignity and the appropriate palliative care. Lord in your mercy....

Let us remember in our prayers all who are sick, or suffering difficulties in their lives. May our prayers help and strengthen them, and all who care for them. Lord in your mercy....

We ask for Our Lady's intercession as we remember those in our parish and our families who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time. Let us say together "Hail Mary....."

Let us pray in silence for our own intentions.

**Priest:** God of love and compassion, accept our prayers which we make through your son, 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.