

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE
Parish Priest: Fr Raphael Jones OSB
Telephone: 01254 852026 – Mobile (emergency) 07944 255541
Email: pp@brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Website: www.brindlestjosephs.org.uk
Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 1)



“Your redemption is drawing near”

O God of all the prophets, you herald the coming of the Son of Man by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth. Guard our hearts from despair so that we, in the company of the faithful and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may be found ready to raise our heads at the coming near of our redemption, the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 30 th	10.30am	For peace in the world	St Andrew (feast)
	SECOND COLLECTION: CHRISTMAS FLOWERS		
	6.00pm	For the Parish	First Sunday of Advent
Sun 1 st December	9.30am	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	
Mon 2 nd	No Mass today		Monday of Advent 1
Tue 3 rd	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Francis Xavier (memorial)
Wed 4 th	9.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Wednesday of Advent 1
Thu 5 th	9.30am	The intentions of Pope Francis	St John Almond (memorial)
Fri 6 th	9.30am	All the children laid to rest in our graveyard	Friday of Advent 1
Sat 7 th	10.00am	Confessions	St Ambrose (memorial)
	10.30am	EBC (<i>Anointing of the sick during Mass</i>)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Second Sunday of Advent
Sun 8 th	9.30am	Henry, Helena and Michael Kitchen	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 30 th		G Kellett		P Cook		L Lomax	
Sun 1 st		B Cook		B Gore		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 7 th		L Lomax		J Hothersall		L Gardner	
Sun 8 th		F Fordyce		F Fordyce		K Slater	
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell		Collection counters	L & M Gardner	

**Last weekend: attendance: 118, collection: £330.62 – thank you!
Thank you also for the collection for the “Animate” Youth Service of £56.66**

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21:25-28,34-36.

We must often draw the comparison between time and eternity. This is the remedy for all our troubles. How small will the present moment appear when we enter into that great ocean? (St Elizabeth Seton)

Life is like the seasons; after winter comes the spring. So, I guess I'll stay awhile and see what tomorrow brings. (From a Sinatra song)

The season of Advent is once again taking us into a new liturgical year and the sense of the winding up of the old and entering the new is implicit in our readings which focus the mind on the end of times – for the repeated seasonal cycle of life is destined, eventually, to come to an end.

It need not be an event to be feared, because by his resurrection from the dead and ascension, Jesus has broken through the barrier that was death and opened the way through to the eternal domain of God – the Great Ocean St Elizabeth speaks of.

Whether the distressing clamour, portents and signs of the end times are to come within our earthly lifetimes or later, we will all have to face the end of our own lives, and its prospect and manner we may find equally as alarming as the thought of the end of times.

Meanwhile, another cycle of seasons continues to offer us more time, more opportunities to deepen our *Yes* to the author of all that is and who reveals himself in the One who tells us to *stay awake praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen*. Don't turn to the bottle or debauchery out of panic or because you think *what's the use?*

We may have to stay awhile, as the lyric goes, but it is only a very small *while* compared to eternity. But we will only be able to stand with confidence before the Son of Man if we have used the time he gives us to deepen our faith in Him who is our *Way our Truth and our Life*. (Jn 14:6)

Reflections:

Every moment comes to us pregnant with a command from God, only to pass on and plunge into eternity, from there to remain forever what we have made of it. (St Francis de Sales)

It is a beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus open the doors of hope.
(From: christianbook.com blog)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

THIS WEEK'S SAINTS

St Francis Xavier (1506-52) Jesuit, educated in Paris where he met the founder of the Jesuit Order – St Ignatius Loyola. He evangelized the East Indies and Japan but died of fatigue and fever on a Chinese island.

St John Almond (1565-1612) Born in Allerton near Liverpool and studied for the priesthood at the English College, Rome. He ministered back in England and was twice arrested. He refused to sign the oath of allegiance saying that he bore in his heart 'so much allegiance to King James as he or any other Christian could expect by law of the true church be it which it will, ours or yours'. He was martyred at Tyburn.

St Ambrose (339-97) Bishop of Milan. As a civilian he was governor to provinces of Milan and on the death of an Arian Bishop, he attended an assembly to pacify a dispute between the Catholics and Arians (a heretical belief that denied the trinitarian belief of Catholicism as expressed in the Nicene Creed) as they sought a successor.

Such were his gifts at mediation that the crowds clamoured for Ambrose to be bishop. Ignoring his resistance on the grounds of unworthiness and that he wasn't even baptised, this was put right and within a week he was ordained bishop.

He took up a course in scripture and a study of the writings of the Fathers. He promoted monasticism, rebuked emperors who abused their powers and introduced the singing of hymns at Mass and was influential in the journey of St Augustine into the faith.

THIS WEEKEND there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for flowers to decorate the church at Christmas.

Please support **NEXT WEEKEND'S FOODBANK COLLECTION** – our chance to make Christmas a little brighter for those in need.

Our Health and Safety Advisors have told us that the **HOT WATER BOILERS** in the kitchen and sacristy should be left on to reduce the risk of legionella bacteria developing.

The Parish **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME** for Reconciliation and the Eucharist will begin after Christmas. If you have or know of someone who is in Year 4 but does not attend St Joseph's Primary School who would like to join us, please contact Fr Raphael or Frances Fordyce - 07813123855.

We have received a letter of thanks from **CAFOD** for £468.49 raised the Parish during the year.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE WIND BLOWS STRONGER CHRISTMAS TOUR. The now legendary 'In the Living Room' Christmas gig, Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own tippie but there will be mince pies and other fripperies. Only £5 – all proceeds to UNICEF and The Foxton Centre.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open every weekend until Christmas.

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

100 CLUB: The winner for week 1 is number 3, Geraldine Kellett. The new year for the club starts **THIS SUNDAY** when subs become due. You can pay for the full year (£50) or in blocks of 10 weeks (£10, 5 times over the year). Payment can be by cash, cheque (payable to Brindle Books) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer – see Lesley or Mick for the account details.

In the current year we have paid out £1,500 in prize money and raised £1,290 for church funds – thank you! New members are always welcome – again, please see Lesley or Mick or leave your name and contact details in the bookshop with your subs.

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.

DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE we are asked to pray for Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Bidding Prayers 1st Sunday Advent Yr C

Priest: Let us turn to God our Father with all our needs.

Reader: For the Church around the world: may she persevere in her struggle to make Christ's love known in the face of opposition and persecution. Lord, in your mercy.

Human life is a precious gift from God: may new and better ways be found to alleviate the indignity of the pain and suffering that those near to life's end too often have to endure. Lord, in your mercy.

As we begin this Advent season of preparation for our celebrations of the coming of Christ, let us make time to deepen our faith and understanding of God's love for us, through prayer and spiritual reading. Lord, in your mercy.

In prayer, let us remember the sick, the bereaved, the elderly and the lonely and all who care for them – entrusting them to the care of Mary our Mother as together we say: Hail Mary...

...and now for a moment of silent prayer.

Priest: Father in Heaven, we continue to make these prayers and those that lie within our hearts known to you, in the firm faith that you alone know how best to answer them, 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.