

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9th February 2025

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



They left everything and followed him

Loving God, you have called forth disciples and prophets to live and speak your word. Give us ears to hear, lives to respond and voices to proclaim the good news of salvation, which we know in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 8 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	
Sun 9 th	9.30am	For the Parish	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 10 th	No Mass today		
Tue 11 th	No Mass today		Feria (World Day of Prayer for the Sick)
Wed 12 th	No Mass today		Feria
Thu 13 th	No Mass today		Feria
Fri 14 th	11.30am	Requiem Mass: Alan Thompson	Ss Cyril and Methodius (memorial)
Sat 15 th	10.30am	EBC	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 16 th	9.30am	Jack Bateson	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 8 th		C Williamson		J Hothersall		Not open
Sun 9 th		C Snape		J Slater		Not open
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	L Rigbye, J Kitchen	Collection counters	P&J Kitchen	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop
Sat 15 th		L Gardner		P Fawcett		Not open
Sun 16 th		K Snape		L Rigbye		Not open
Bidding prayers	J&K Slater	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	L&M Gardner	

Last weekend – attendance: 115, collection £382.14 – thank you!

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5: 1-11.

Here I am, send me and they left everything and followed him.

Sadly, these thematic headings to our readings are not reproduced in the Mass sheets as they are in the Missal.

For they help us to see what is in the mind of those who compiled the lectionary with their choice of readings for us every Sunday.

Last week, the Lord suddenly entered his temple as a child presented by his parents as prophesied by the prophet Malachi and both the righteous Simeon and the prophetess Anna were humbled in his presence.

In today's reading, it is the prophet Isaiah who is humbled in the presence of the Lord who suddenly enters his holy temple: *Woe to me for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts.*

There is nothing Isaiah can do to save himself from the death his sin incurs in the *Presence*, for the tradition held that no one could look upon God and live.

But God reaches out to him through the mighty and terrifying Seraphim, the highest of the angelic orders, and touches his lips with a burning coal making them clean and purified enough to be sent to go forth to proclaim God's truth.

Fast forward about 700 years to today's Gospel where the miraculous catch of fish compels St Peter to fall to his knees as he recognises that he is in the presence of ... well we would have to ask him exactly whom, at least at that time, he thought Jesus was ... but, clearly, he was overwhelmed in the presence of Jesus: *Depart from me, he begs, for I am a sinful man O Lord.*

But Jesus doesn't offer him a hot coal as he did Isaiah; he simply tells him not to be afraid and that, from now on, Peter will be catching men, and along with Andrew, James and John, he left everything to follow him.

What has all this to do with you and me?

Before his own conversion, from culling the Christians to becoming one of the foremost of them, the author of our second reading might have asked that same question ... that is, until he too was brought to his knees by his own sense of unworthiness in the awesome presence of God. Yet, even as a convert writing to the Corinthians, Paul still sees himself as the least of the Apostles.

But, as he says, it was by God's grace that I am what I am and his grace toward me has not been in vain – again, not a burning coal, but grace which can be interpreted as God's favour and burning love.

It was in the presence of God's burning love that Malachi prophesied and Simeon and Anna rejoiced. Moreover, *burning love* is at the root of the name *Seraphim* and it was in the presence of God's burning love that the lips of Isaiah were cleansed so as to proclaim God's truth to his people and it was the presence of that same love that purified both Peter and Paul, enabling them to give their lives in doing the same.

Today's readings then, are about *humility* and *service* to the Lord; in other words, it is about the truth of how we stand in the presence of God. We may not be murderers or committing other heinous crimes, but if we were to look upon God in his raw reality, could we survive it – for he is pure love, pure light and our eyes cannot even survive looking at the sun without the need to veil its intensity through filters.

So, behind the veil of the sacraments, he draws us into himself, purifying us the more we recognise our need of his love and forgiveness and, in humility, are willing to say with Isaiah: Here I am! Send me.

To do what?

To leave all that holds us back from going forth to proclaim his love to others by our actions and by the words that come out of our mouths.

Reflection

The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist. (St Gregory the Great)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's Saints

St Scholastica (480 – 543-7) Sister of St Benedict and first Benedictine nun, her convent being about five miles from Monte Cassino where her brother was Abbot. A story goes that every year they would meet in a house not far from his monastery and talk of the things of God. On one visit, just before he was to leave, she urged him to stay but he refused. So, she prayed silently and a violent storm broke out. Shocked, Benedict said to his sister 'May God forgive you sister, what have you done?' and had to remain there, where they happily continued their discourse. Three days later, from his cell, Benedict saw the soul of his sister rising to heaven like a dove and he buried her in a tomb he had prepared for himself. Their minds had always been united in God; their bodies were to share a common grave.

St Cyril (826-69) and **St Methodius** (815-85). These brothers translated the liturgy into the Slavonic language, inventing the Glagolitic alphabet from which Cyrillic was derived. They became known as the Apostles of the Slavs.

There are **NO MASSES MONDAY TO THURSDAY** this week.

MASS ON FRIDAY is at **11.30am** – Requiem Mass for Alan Thompson.

This Tuesday is the **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK**. You can find Pope Francis' message in the "Downloads" section of our website.

We need another two people to join our team of **COLLECTION COUNTERS** – if you can help, please let me know. Thank you.

There is a '**FOXTON BOX**' at the back of church for any donations of items such as hats, scarves, toiletries or sleeping bags. They will be taken down to the Foxton Centre on a regular basis. It will make a real difference to peoples' lives and, given that the average age of people without a home or roof is 43 years, you may even begin to help change that.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION at <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> is open until 17th March.

PLEASE PRAY for Alan Thompson who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including 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 9 is number 70, Fred Graham.

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.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Winter), ie up to Lent, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

TEA AND COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday mornings. Please come along – you'll be very welcome.

Bidding Prayers 8th and 9th February 2025

Priest: Father, as we come together in worship, we ask you to listen to our prayers.

Reader: We join Pope Francis in his prayers for all clergy who serve in poor or conflict-stricken war zones – may they find the strength to continue your work. Lord in your mercy...

For global leaders who claim to espouse Christian moral codes – open their hearts to embrace the true values of humility and compassion, rather than self-promotion and greed. Lord in your mercy...

For the many people displaced from their homes through war or natural disaster – give them hope for the future. Lord in your mercy...

We think of relatives and friends who have died – console those who mourn for them. Lord in your mercy...

For ourselves – help us to sense that a loving God is near to us, not just during Mass, but in our everyday lives. Lord in your mercy...

For those in our parish who are unwell, lonely or afraid – may they be comforted as we pray together – Hail Mary...

We offer our own silent prayers to you.

Priest: "On the day I called you answered me." We make these 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.