

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th February 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God”

A Prayer for Racial Justice

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our eyes to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history and fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

THIS WEEK

Sat 15 th	10.30am	EBC	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 16 th	9.30am	Jack Bateson	
Mon 17 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 18 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Feria
Wed 19 th	9.30am	The Cowdall family	Feria
Thu 20 th	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Fri 21 st	9.30am	In thanksgiving (JW)	Feria
Sat 22 nd	10.30am	Pope's intentions	The See of St Peter (feast)
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 23 rd	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 15th	L Gardner	P Fawcett	Not open
Sun 16th	K Snape	L Rigbye	Not open
Bidding prayers	J&K Slater	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler
		Collection counters	L&M Gardner
Next week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 22nd	G Hopkinson	L Gardner	Not open
Sun 23rd	R Conboy	S Schofield	Not open
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, B Gorrell
		Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

Last weekend – attendance: 134, collection £341.80 – thank you!

Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20, Luke 6:17,20-26.

Our second reading, St Paul's letter to the Corinthians, offers us a subject for reflection, easily taken for granted due to our familiarity with it, that is: belief in our bodily resurrection.

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection from the dead Paul asks them.

One might answer: because I don't believe that Christ was raised from the dead, so I am certainly not likely to believe that anyone else will rise from the dead.

A fair answer if it were not for the fact that St Paul is addressing his question to those who **do** believe in Christ's resurrection, but that that resurrection was exclusive to him only and to no one else.

In general, the Greeks had a philosophical belief in an ethereal ideal of which this life, this universe, is but a pale reflection and so, at some level, they would have had something in common with the Christian notion of heaven as a perfect state of bliss and completion.

For example, in the *Acts*, Paul is making good headway as he explains to the Athenians ideas about God that resonated with them, that is, until he mentions that God had appointed a man (Jesus) to be judge and proved it by raising this man from the dead.

At the mention of rising from the dead, some of them burst out laughing ...

In the Gospels, Jesus makes many references to life beyond this one, whether it be heaven, hell or implicitly, somewhere in-between, but it is St John who has Jesus proclaim explicitly to Martha, on the death of her and Mary's brother: *Your brother will rise again.*

I know he will rise on the last day she says, to which Jesus replies I am the resurrection, if anyone believes in me, though he dies, he will live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Of course, she does and so should we, for Jesus reminds us that alongside the turbulent realities of life, some good some bad, we are part of an eternal unchanging reality of love; begun at our baptism when we took our place in his own resurrected and wounded body.

It is in this wounded body that we live, move and have our being with all our own wounds. It is in this wounded body that we live, die and, united to Christ, find our resurrection.

You who are so slow to believe, listen to what the scriptures have said about me; put your hand into my side, give me something to eat and see for yourselves that I am no ethereal spirit or ghost.

As we reflected last week, our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus reminds us that our physical bodies have value in life and in death for they are destined to be reunited with the soul at the end of time.

Therefore, how we treat our own body and the bodies of other people, has consequences as the *Beatitudes* of today's Gospel show: *Woe to those who rejoice now at the expense of others ... and to those others: rejoice in your sufferings, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

So let us remain rooted in Christ, the head of the body of which we are part, and draw strength for our souls from his Spirit in the love of God the Father, Amen.

Reflections:

If there is a true way that leads to the Everlasting Kingdom, it is most certainly that of suffering, patiently endured. (St Colette)

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave. (St John Chrysostom)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

THIS WEEK'S FEAST

The See (or Chair) of St Peter This feast honours the Chair, Throne, Sedes (Latin) or Cathedra (Greek) of St Peter who was commissioned by our Lord to found his Church on earth. It is the symbol of the teaching authority of *ex-cathedra* teachings pronounced by his successors which by that authority, claim inerrancy and infallibility.

TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY when we are invited to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society. There is more information at: www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/racial-justice/.

There are hard copies of the **ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER** for Racial Justice Sunday at the back of church and it is also available from the "Downloads" section of the 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 **FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND.**

The next **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION MEETING** is Thursday of **NEXT WEEK**, 27th February.

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

PLEASE PRAY 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 10 is number 39, Linda and Mel Rigbye The next block of 10 weeks starts next weekend when **subs become due** unless you've paid for the full year.

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 for the 6th Sunday - 15th/16th February 2025

Priest: Let us ask God our Father to hear our prayers and help us to acknowledge your greatness and serve you with grateful hearts.

Reader: We pray for government officials at local, regional and national levels. May they seek to serve all their constituents, especially those who are poor and vulnerable among them. Lord in your mercy... hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the unemployed, those threatened with redundancy, the homeless, the lonely and those struggling to feed themselves and their families. Lord in your mercy...

For all who are sick or in pain or facing any kind of difficulty, we pray that God may lift them up and grant them strength, hope and healing. Lord in your mercy...

For the Church: Let us pray for the Pope, for our Bishops and Priests and for all who follow Christ in our community. Lord in your mercy...

May the lord grant eternal rest to those who have died, those who are known to us and those who have no one to pray for them. Lord in your mercy...

Now let us unite our prayers with the prayers of Our Lady as we say – Hail Mary...

And let us make our private petitions to God in a moment of silence.

Priest: Heavenly Father give us grace and courage to spread your joy. Hear our prayers for your help, which we offer in the name of 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.