

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd March 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 4)

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED



“Can a blind man lead a blind man?”

Prayer to St. Joseph for the Unemployed

O Saint Joseph, we pray to you for those who are out of work, for those who want to earn their living or support their families. You who are the patron of workers, grant that unemployment may vanish from our ranks, that all those who are ready to work may put their strength and abilities in serving their fellow men and earn a just salary. You are the patron of families: do not let those who have children to support and raise lack the necessary means. Have pity on our brothers and sisters held down in unemployment and poverty because of sickness or social disorders. Help our political leaders and captains of industry find new and just solutions. May each and every one have the joy of contributing, according to his abilities, to the common prosperity by an honourable livelihood. Grant that we may all share together in the abundant goods God has given us and that we may help underprivileged countries. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 1 st March	10.00am	Confessions	St David (feast)
	10.30am	Edmund Noblett (<i>Anointing of the sick during Mass</i>)	
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 2 nd	9.30am	Alan Thompson	
	11.00am	Baptism: Aria Love Hart-Barlow	
Mon 3 rd	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 4 th	9.30am	Richard Monica and John Reid	Feria
Wed 5 th	9.30am	For peace in the world	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)
	6.00pm	Christine Jamieson	
Thu 6 th	9.30am	For the well-being of Pope Francis	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Fri 7 th	10.30am	Requiem: Edmund Noblett	Friday after Ash Wednesday
Sat 8 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
	SECOND COLLECTION: SPUC		First Sunday of Lent
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 9 th	9.30am	For our benefactors	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 1st March		G Kellett		P Cook		L Gardner	
Sun 2nd		B Cook		M Gardner		tba	
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, C Curwen	Collection counters	tba		
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 8th		L Lomax		J Hothersall		P Hothersall	
Sun 9th		F Fordyce		B Gore		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	C & K Snape		

Last weekend – attendance: 108, collection £341.65 – thank you!

Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2025, on the theme "Let us journey together in hope"

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (*cf Jn 10:28; 17:3*).

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way

discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good “examination of conscience” for all of us wayfarers.

Second, to journey *together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (*cf Gal 3:26-28*). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

Third, let us journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise. May *the hope that does not disappoint* (*cf Rom 5:5*), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, “the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (*Rom 8:38-39*)”. Christ, my hope, has risen! He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God’s help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (*cf Rom 5:5*). Hope is the “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”. It moves the Church to pray for “everyone to be saved” (*1 Tim 2:4*) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: “Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one” (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God, 15:3*).

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

MASS ON FRIDAY will be at **10.30am**, Requiem Mass for Edmund Noblett.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY are days of fasting and abstinence.

FASTING means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced.

ABSTINENCE means that we give up a particular kind of food or drink or some form of amusement. In place of abstinence, other forms of penance may be substituted eg making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Stations of the Cross, making a special effort to help someone who is poor, sick, elderly or lonely and so on.

“The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year. The law of fasting binds those who have obtained their majority, until the beginning of their 60th year.” (*Canon 1252*)

FRIDAY PENANCE: The form of penance we adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form each Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. However, penance is part of the life of every Christian and the intention to do penance is of obligation.

“The days and times of penance for the Universal Church are each Friday of the full year and the season of Lent.” (*Canon 1250*)

Wednesday of this week is ASH WEDNESDAY – the start of Lent. There will be Mass as usual at 9.30am and again at 6.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

LENT: Starting **next week** on **FRIDAYS** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm, followed by Benediction.

Next Sunday there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for **SPUC** – the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. You can find out more about their work at: <https://spuc.org.uk/>.

The next **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION** meeting is next Thursday (13th March).

BOOKSHOP: It is with regret that the Bookshop will be closing soon – this is due to a lack of sales over the last two years. It will be open this weekend, and hopefully for the rest of March, and all stock will be half price.

Thank you for last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION**. The next one is over the weekend of 19th/20th April.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION at <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation> is open until 17th March. Would anyone who applies, please let me know. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY for Edmund Noblett and Jim Biggerstaffe who have died, for those who are sick or housebound including Pope Francis, Ann Green, 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 12 is number 7, Rachel Conboy. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

FROM BREN COOK: There is a quiet revolution taking place in the Roman Catholic Church. It is the way of Synodality. Pope Francis defines it as '...the way of being the church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit'. What does this mean here in St Joseph's, in the Chorley Deanery of the Archdiocese of Liverpool? It means we are members of a family of parishes that includes St Bede's, St Chad's, St Joseph's Chorley, St Joseph's Brinscall and ourself. There is a small group of representatives from each of the Parishes that come together to start the work of being part of the Synodical Church. Whilst this may sound grand, the group, chaired by Fr Mark Beattie, is at a very early stage. The group is finding out about the parishes and exploring simple ways of working together eg co-ordinating confirmations, Stations of the Cross, linking websites, and opening up social events like the "Songs for Your Spirit" event during Lent here at Brindle. These are small steps but given that the future of our parish is with the Archdiocese, they are important ones. As things develop there'll be more articles here in the bulletin.

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.

Bidding Prayers for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priest: Let us put before our heavenly Father all our worries and cares.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Malcolm and all the Church in the work of spreading the Gospel. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for world leaders, that they will strive for peace and justice, particularly in Ukraine, and the Middle East. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray for the unemployed and their families, that they receive the opportunities and financial support they need. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for those who are struggling financially because of the increased cost of living. May we endeavour to help them in any way we can. Lord in your mercy....

Let us pray that we are aware of our own faults and strive to correct them rather than criticising others. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for those of our parish who are ill or housebound and for those who care for them. We also pray for the speedy recovery of Pope Francis. Lord in your mercy....

We join our prayers with those of Our Lady as we say Hail Mary....

Let us put our own petitions before God in a moment of silence.

Priest: Father you know all our needs; help us to live for the day and not worry about tomorrow. 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.