

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

First Sunday of Lent 9th March 2025

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



*“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.”*

God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 8 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	Saturday after Ash Wednesday
	SECOND COLLECTION: SPUC		
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 9 th	9.30am	For our benefactors	First Sunday of Lent
Mon 10 th	No Mass today		
Tue 11 th	No Mass today		Monday of Lent 1
Wed 12 th	9.30am	Vocations	Tuesday of Lent 1
Thu 13 th	9.30am	Edmund Noblett	Wednesday of Lent 1
Fri 14 th	11.00am	Funeral: Jim Biggerstaff	Thursday of Lent 1
	5.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	5.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction	
Sat 15 th	10.30am	Bob Moffatt	Friday of Lent 1 (Lent Fast Day)
	SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD		
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 16 th	9.30am	Mary Schofield	Saturday of Lent 1
Second Sunday of Lent			

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		L Lomax		J Hothersall		P Hothersall	
Sun 9 th		F Fordyce		B Gore		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	C & K Snape	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 15 th		M Russell		G Hopkinson		L Gardner	
Sun 16 th		L Rigbye		F Fordyce		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	G Hopkinson	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	

Last weekend – attendance: 118, collection £383.84 – thank you!

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10: 8-13, Luke 4:1-13.

With mighty hand and outstretched arm and with great deeds of terror, signs and wonders, the Lord God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt; through forty years in the desert to Canaan; to the promised land flowing with milk and honey.

What had the people been doing in the desert all those years?

Through Moses, God had been teaching them how to be *his* people: through customs, prayer and forms of worship that would distinguish them as the unique people of God.

But if there was just one lesson that they should learn, it was to ***trust in God alone for his provision and protection.***

It is a lesson for all time and the person who does so is the person who *dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty, who says to the Lord, 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in who I trust'.*

During his forty days in the desert, Jesus is also going through a period of testing, and the devil even quotes the *Word of God* from our *Responsorial psalm* (part of which I have just quoted) in an attempt to lure Jesus from his single-minded obedience to his father's will. For the devil is the *father of lies* and he speaks in half-truths which is why we can so easily be led astray by him.

For, in his hunger, being the Son of God, Jesus **could** have relieved his hunger and turned the stone into a loaf of bread; he **was** to receive authority and glory, not only over the kingdoms of the earth but of the universe and

over heaven and hell as well; and he **was** to be saved and borne to heaven by the angels. All of this happened ... but it happened according to *God's Word* not the *devil's*.

It is the nature of this fallen world that, as the saying goes: *no gain without pain*, but the devil would have us believe otherwise for he is in the business of *quick fixes* and immediate gratification; whereas Jesus tells us, through his parables, that the *truly* good things that last, the things of the kingdom of God, take time to come about ... we need patience.

So, as we go into our forty days of purification and discernment as God's people, we draw strength from Jesus as he accompanies us in our own spiritual desert – for our lives often feel very arid and dry, but we keep going with our eyes set on him as he kept going with his eyes set on his Father.

And when we *fall*, we thank God for the gift of reconciliation where we find God's mercy, forgiveness and love and a chance to start again – though the devil will try to tell us otherwise: *Do you really think God will forgive you that ...?*

Yes he will if we are truly repentant.

After forty days of fasting, Jesus' hunger must have been intense, even painful, but he still would not listen to the devil's assurances that, as the Son of God, he could have turned the stone into a loaf of bread – did he even need to be told that?

Instead, he replied *Man does not live on bread alone* and Matthew's Gospel adds: *but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Because he chose to listen to his Father, and not the *father of lies*, Jesus' hunger was more than satisfied; for his hunger was for souls to feed with his love, through his word and through his body which becomes for all who follow him and him alone, not just earthly bread that will leave us hungry again, but the bread of eternal life.

Reflections:

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. (Pope Francis)

Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves. What is it that stands between us and God, between us and our brothers and sisters, between us and the life of the Spirit?

Whatever it is, *with God's help*, let us relentlessly tear it out without a moment's hesitation. (Catherine Doherty. *Italics mine*)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week there is **NO MASS ON TUESDAY OR FRIDAY.**

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Aria Love Hart-Barlow who was baptised last Sunday.

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*)

LENT: Each **FRIDAY** there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.00pm, Stations of the Cross at 5.30pm, followed by Benediction.

This 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/>.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL – Lent is with us again and we are invited by CAFOD to eat simply on or around this Friday and to give to their Fast Day Appeal.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION this 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 for the rest of March, and all stock is half price.

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 Jim Biggerstaff and Anne Haydock 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 13 is number 1, Joan and Peter Kitchen. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Lent we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Bidding Prayers – Sunday 9th March 2025 – First Sunday of Lent

Priest: On this First Sunday of Lent, we think about pleasing God by preparing ourselves for Easter.

Reader: For the church. We think about Pope Francis, that he may have a speedy recovery. Lord, in your mercy....

For ourselves; may we be like Jesus and listen to what God is asking from us. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders; may they work together as a team to bring peace to the world. Lord in your mercy....

We pray for families, particularly refugees, for those in the military, NHS staff and clergymen. Lord your mercy....

We pray for all people whose loved ones have died, who are sad or lonely, that they may find the support and comfort they need. Lord in your mercy.

We pray for our parish, family and friends. May we have open hearts and ears, and help and listen to those in need. Lord, in your mercy...

Let us think about all those who need our prayers, as we turn to Mary our Mother: Hail Mary...

In silence, we place our own concerns before the Lord.

Priest: Loving Father accept these prayers which we make 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.