

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Fifth Sunday of Lent 6th April 2025

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



*“Let him who is without sin among you
be the first to throw a stone at her”*

God of all wholeness, heal our hearts of all that prevents us responding to our sisters and brothers excluded by poverty and prevented from living a full and healthy life. This Lent, may we: implore justice through our prayer, stand in solidarity through our fasting, and reach out through our giving. Send your life-giving power to revive the weary, restore the broken and renew the face of the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(CAFOD, from Psalm 147:3)

THIS WEEK

Sat 5 th	10.00am	Confessions	Saturday of Lent 4
	10.30am	Edmund Noblett <i>(Blessing of the sick during Mass)</i>	
	SECOND COLLECTION: EASTER FLOWERS		
6.00pm	For the Parish		
Sun 6 th	9.30am	Monica Chatburn	
Mon 7 th	No Mass today		Monday of Lent 5
Tue 8 th	9.30am	Dorothy Hoole	Tuesday of Lent 5
Wed 9 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Wednesday of Lent 5
Thu 10 th	9.30am	Pope's intentions	Thursday of Lent 5
Fri 11 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Lent 5
Sat 12 th	10.30am	Edmund Noblett	Saturday of Lent 5
	6.00pm	For those affected by the earthquake in the Far East	Palm Sunday
Sun 13 th	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 5 th		G Hopkinson		J Hothersall		
Sun 6 th		F Fordyce		L Rigbye		
Bidding prayers	n/a	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, C Curwen	Collection counters	C Moffatt & C Williamson	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		
Sat 12 th		M Sherry, G Hopkinson, C Williamson		P Cook		
Sun 13 th		L Rigbye, G Kellett, R Conboy		S Schofield		
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Snape	Collection counters	C & K Snape	

Last weekend – attendance: 105, collection £433.01 – thank you!

Thank you also for the collection for Nugent Care of £48.04

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

Remember not the former things nor consider the things of old.

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ.

Has no one condemned you? No, she replies. Neither do I. Go and sin no more.

The above from all three of today's readings seem to set a common theme which is:

Do not let the past, however shameful, hold you back from the new start a loving God offers to all people through his Son Jesus Christ.

His offer of love and forgiveness, and thereby a new start, begins in the *here and now* of our lives.

We leave the past with all our failings behind, for the past is past and, with St Paul, look to the future but only inasmuch that our present shapes our future hope.

For, it can only be in the present that we find God's love and forgiveness; for it is only in the present – the eternal present – that we encounter our blessed Lord and his forgiveness.

Remember not the former things the prophet says.

He may have been referring to a previous time in the desert when having just been liberated from slavery in Egypt by God's might hand, they began to murmur and complain that they would rather have carried on under the yoke of slavery than rejoice in the freedom won for them by God through Moses.

They were looking back to the past of *enslavement* and not to a future of *freedom* and we remember what happened to Lot's wife when she looked back at the destruction of the sinful city of Sodom having been told by God's angels not to.

The last thing she saw, before she was turned into a pillar of salt, was her past and not a future of hope in the Lord who was trying to save them. (Gen. 19:26)

Though God is perfectly capable of turning anybody he chooses into a pillar of salt, this story of *Lot's* unfortunate wife is considered but a folk tale to explain a particular rock formation in those parts.

But as with other fables, myths and folk tales, it conveys a truth: *do not let your past hold you captive from future growth in the Lord's love and forgiveness.*

To conclude: in our *Responsorial Psalm*, we find God once again about to liberate, liberating or having liberated his people from their sinful past in exile, and leading them to a future of hope and a new start in their homeland.

Jesus has no interest in the past sins of the woman accused of adultery, except to warn her to sin no more.

St Paul wants to leave this past behind and concentrate on straining for that goal; the upward call of God in Jesus Christ and through the prophet in our first reading, the Lord says: *Remember not former things nor consider the things of old ... behold, I am doing a new thing.*

Let us not allow the past to hold us back from looking to our future with hope for, right now, he is doing a new thing within each one of us if we have but the faith to believe it.

Reflection

There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future. (St Augustine)

With prayers,

Fr Raphael.

There is a **PASTORAL LETTER** from Archbishop Malcolm concerning legalising assisted suicide through the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill** which is currently being debated in Parliament. There are hard copies at the back of church and you can also read it and/or listen to it via the "Downloads" section of our website. Also at the back of church are **POSTCARDS** which can be sent to MPs asking them to vote against the bill at its third reading.

A message from Julia Brooke, PA to the Abbot of Ampleforth: "Thank you for your patience in waiting for news about the **FUTURE OF BRINDLE PARISH**. The Archdiocesan Trustees met last week and the Archbishop and Abbot Robert have subsequently been in discussions and have agreed that an announcement about the next steps will be made at St Joseph's after Easter. I will be in contact in due course to confirm the date of the announcement. In the meanwhile, I wish you all a blessed Lent and thank you again for your continued support and patience. Julia"

This Sunday (6th April) there is a **SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** at St Gregory's, Weldbank, Chorley at 3.00pm.

SONGS FOR YOUR SPIRIT: In the Living Room are offering an evening of songs that have been meaningful to the band and friends. Just the evening to complement the beginning of Holy Week a few days later. It will be in the church here at St Joseph's **THIS FRIDAY** (11th April) starting at 7.00pm. It's free to come along and there will be a collection with all proceeds going to CAFOD and GiveDirectly. After the concert, there will be tea or coffee in the parish rooms. The mixture of music includes original songs, songs from Godspell, Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens plus music from Taizé. Join us for what will be an inspirational night.

MASS NEXT SUNDAY will start in Chapel Fold with the blessing of palms and from there we'll process into church – weather permitting, of course.

Due to injury, **WE NO LONGER HAVE ANYONE TO REGULARLY CLEAN** the presbytery, parish room and toilet. Please could we all try to keep everything as clean as possible? Thank you.

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*)

THIS SUNDAY there will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** for Easter flowers for the church.

PLEASE PRAY 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.

Ed Snape is now well on the road to recovery and he and the family thank everyone for their prayers.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 17 is number 6, Pauline Kerr.

GRAVEYARD: We'll be starting mowing in the near future so could you please remove any items which would get in the way of the mowers. Thank you.

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.

CAFOD envelopes can be handed in with the collections over the remaining weeks of Lent. Please consider filling in the Gift Aid form attached to the envelope; we can send these to CAFOD who will claim an extra benefit. Alternatively donations can be made via [the CAFOD website](#).

Bidding Prayers 5th Sunday of Lent 2025

Priest: We turn to the Lord of all creation and plead for His help for all His suffering people.

Reader: Let us pray for all Christians throughout the world, that their love for Jesus will be shown by their selfless care and compassion for all their brothers and sisters who are in need. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

Let us pray for those in positions of power, in Government, commerce and national institutions that, strengthened by God's Spirit of Power, they will always consider the impact of their decisions on the whole community, particularly on those whose needs are greatest, the weak and the vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

Let us pray for the victims of the war in Gaza, the Ukraine and in armed conflicts around the world. Let us also remember those affected by the earthquake in the far east. Lord give these people hope today and bring peace to their troubled lands. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

We pray for ourselves that we may heed the messages of today's Gospel, following the example of Jesus rather than that of the crowd, so keen to judge and cast their stones. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

Let us pray for every member of our parish community that, united with Christ in carrying his cross, we will be given the grace and strength to accept any cross that Our Lord may give us regarding the future of the parish. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

Let us pray for the ears to hear God's call to help the vulnerable in our midst, including people with disabilities, people in hospitals, those in nursing homes, the housebound, and those nearing the end of their lives. Lord, in your mercy . . . Hear our prayer

May Mary be our model and inspiration in following Christ her Son: Hail Mary . . .

In silence, let us place our own concerns before the Lord.

Priest: Father, hear these prayers which we make through 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.