

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Second Sunday of Easter 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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

### DAY OF DIVINE MERCY



*“My Lord and my God!”*

O God, you raised up Jesus Christ as your faithful witness and the first-born of the dead. By your Holy Spirit, help us to witness to him so that those who have not yet seen may come to believe in him who is, and was, and is to come. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No 10.30am today</b>		Saturday within the Easter Octave
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Rita Gorrell	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>
	11.00am	<b>Baptism: Joseph Stuart Bateson</b>	
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		St George (solemnity)
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Robert Booth	St Catherine of Siena (feast)
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Repose of the soul of Pope Francis	Wednesday of Easter 2
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.30am	Staff and pupils of St Joseph's Primary School	St Joseph the worker (feast)
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Ann Lumb	St Athanasius (memorial)
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	Ss Philip and James (feast)
	10.30am	Edmund Noblett (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	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	
Sat 26 <sup>th</sup>		L Gardner		J Hothersall	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>		B Cook		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>		G Kellett		P Fawcett	
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>		B Cook		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

**Last weekend's attendance: 171. Thank you for your Easter Offering of £398.60 and for Good Friday's collection for the Holy Places of £131.20**

### Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

*Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.*

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdalen first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed. *(Loyola Press – Sunday Connection)*

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### **This week's Saints**

**St George** (d 303) Patron of England, Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Catalonia, venerated in Russia and Ethiopia and one of the 14 Holy Helpers in Germany.

He is associated with the story of the fearsome dragon which had graduated from eating sheep to eating human sacrifices before being appeased. After the King's daughter became the sacrificial victim by lot, St George confronted the dragon and pierced it with his lance, tamed it and told the people that if they would believe in Christ and be baptized, he would rid them of the monster which they did and he did.

He is thought to have been martyred under the persecutions of Diocletian and Maximian.

**St Catherine of Siena** was an Italian mystic and pious laywoman who engaged in papal and Italian politics through extensive letter-writing and advocacy. Canonized in 1461, she is revered as a saint and as a Doctor of the Church due to her extensive theological authorship.

**St Joseph the worker:** To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955.

**St Athanasius** (296-373) Bishop of Alexandria where he was born. He fought the Arian heresy that did not believe in the Son as being co-equal with the Father and attended the Council of Nicaea where he helped to clarify the teachings as expressed in the Nicene Creed. He suffered much opposition and spent 17 years in exile. He wrote many outstanding works and is known as the Father of Orthodoxy.

**Philip** of Bethsaida was originally a disciple of John the Baptist before following our Lord and **James**, son of Alphaeus who was condemned by the Sanhedrin and stoned in AD 62.

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**THIS SUNDAY (NB – NOT Saturday)** Abbot Robert will be present at Mass to announce the plans for the future.

**FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM:** Brother and sisters, It is with a sense of deep sadness with thanksgiving to God for a life lived in the Lord's service, that we have learned today of the death of our Holy Father Pope Francis. From the first moments of his pontificate, as a bishop from the peripheries on 13 March 2013, he has impacted the minds and hearts of many in the world seeking that we should all be "fratelli tutti" – brothers and sisters together, in this our common home.

The Catholic Church has lost its universal Pastor, and so today we pray for his eternal rest, we thank God for the much good he has done, and we pray for the Cardinals as they move to elect another successor of Saint Peter to continue to guide and lead the Church in 2025.

I have many fond memories of meeting him, most recently in January at the first general audience of the Jubilee Year. I will remember him as a kind and welcoming priest and bishop. Francis asked everyone who met him to never to forget to pray for him – let us assure him of our prayers that he would finally meet the good shepherd and gentle judge he so zealously served.

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We will say a **DECADE OF THE ROSARY** after weekday Masses throughout May.

Please remember in your prayers **BISHOP JOHN SHERRINGTON**, currently Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, who is to be the new Archbishop of Liverpool, replacing Archbishop Malcolm who is retiring. The installation will be on May 27<sup>th</sup>. There is more information at the back of church and on the Archdiocesan website: [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk).

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Please support **THIS WEEKEND'S FOODBANK COLLECTION**.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, for those who are sick or housebound including Ann Green, Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick, as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 20 is number 79, Sue Biggerstaff. The next block of 10 weeks starts **next weekend** when subs become due unless you've paid for the full year.

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**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** During Easter we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

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Preston Orpheus Choir (which includes a number of our congregation) are having an “**INTRODUCTION TO HANDEL’S MESSIAH**” on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May in St Leonard’s church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, PR1 9JA. There’s a “Come and Sing” workshop in the afternoon followed by an informal performance in the evening. It’s a brilliant way to have a go at highlights of one of the most famous choral works or just come along and listen. More details on the choir’s website: [www.prestonorpheuschoir.org](http://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org).

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In aid of the **GREGSON GREEN CHARITY**, there is a Ladies’ Pop-up Shop and Fun Fashion Show in the Community Centre, Gregson Lane, on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Doors open at 7.00pm, show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Ann Atkin (07512311857) or see Frances Fordyce or Gill Fowler.

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### **Bidding Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter 2025**

The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. With trust in that mercy we bring all our prayers before the Lord.

We pray for the Church; may she ever remain faithful, as did the early Church, to the teaching of the Apostles and the Breaking of Bread. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis – may he rest in peace and rise in glory. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will guide those who appoint his successor. Lord in your mercy.....

For peace in our world, that Christ’s gift of peace may settle in the hearts of all people and guide us away from injustice, violence and war. Lord in your mercy.....

For our Parish community as we face an uncertain future. May we have the wisdom, courage and serenity to cope with that future, no matter what it holds. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for ourselves, for our neighbours and colleagues, for those who are ill, distressed, lonely or afraid. May they know the healing presence and peace of Christ. Lord in your mercy.....

While we ponder the depth of the love of God present in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ, we pray that He would make us channels of His Divine Mercy, especially to those who may have suffered the loss of a baby. Lord in your mercy.....

Mary, who shared most fully in the resurrection of Jesus, pray with us as we say, Hail Mary.....

In silence, let us bring our own intentions to God.....

Heavenly Father, we bring our prayers to you 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.