

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Third Sunday of Easter 4th May 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)



“It is the Lord”

God of victory over death, your Son revealed himself again and again, and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection. Grant that we may know his risen presence, in love obediently feed his sheep, and care for the lambs of his flock, until we join the hosts of heaven in worshiping you and praising him who is worthy of blessing and honour, glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 3 rd	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	Ss Philip and James (feast)
	10.30am	Edmund Noblett (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Tony and Barbara Phelan	Third Sunday of Easter
Sun 4 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 5 th	No Mass today		Monday of Easter 3
Tue 6 th	9.30am	Hilda Martindale	Tuesday of Easter 3
Wed 7 th	9.30am	For the Conclave (followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for one hour)	Wednesday of Easter 3
Thu 8 th	9.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Thursday of Easter 3
Fri 9 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Easter 3
Sat 10 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	Saturday of Easter 3
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sun 11 th	9.30am	Maureen Spencer	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 3 rd		G Kellett		P Fawcett	
Sun 4 th		B Cook		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 10 th		M Sherry		L Gardner	
Sun 11 th		K Slater		J Kitchen	
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	C Moffatt & C Williamson

Last weekend attendance: 139, collection £391.42 – thank you!

Readings: Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-14

If, at a superficial level, it sometimes seems that the darkness of evil and toil of everyday life have the upper hand, the Church knows with certainty that the light of Easter now shines eternally on those who follow Christ. This great message of the Resurrection fills the hearts of the faithful with inner joy and renewed hope.

Could these words of *St John Paul II* ever become a reality in our lives as we plunge into our own spiritual darkness as a parish and as a community of faith?

One feels not only abandoned by the Church but perhaps even by God.

The 16thc Carmelite *St John of the Cross*, who experienced the most profound sense of abandonment by God and inability even to pray, (though he still desired God intently) saw this as part of *the dark night of the soul*.

I am not qualified to elaborate upon this deepest mysticism, and St John himself may say that our present experiences are not what he is talking about.

But the great saints and mystics all seem to refer to it at some level: for example, behind her cheerful smile and loving service to the poorest of the poor, Mother Teresa (*now St Teresa of Calcutta*) experienced a *lengthy period of profound spiritual darkness, dryness in prayer and a feeling of God's absence, despite her unwavering dedication to her mission for the best part of her life*. (from various sources)

You and I may not be called to such a sense of spiritual abandonment and deprivation, but at levels best suited to our openness to God's graces, our temperament and our desire for God, this does seem to be the way God calls each one of us to deepen our love for him which, of course, will never match the depth of his love for us.

It is, we reflected the other week, part of the following of Christ's own life of *letting go* perhaps even of holy *things* (*even church buildings*) if we cannot see past them into the mystery toward which they point, namely: Jesus

Christ whose own presence in the world was to point towards the Father: *Do not cling to me because I have not yet ascended to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.* (Jn 20:17)

What, we might think, could be better than to cling to the body of our Lord, even the resurrected Lord as *Mary of Magdala* attempted to do?

It would seem that it is only when we find ourselves with nothing to cling to but pure faith, that with Christ, we truly die to ourselves so that we can be raised with him in his resurrection.

I have just read the following from the *Collected Letters of St Therese of Lisieux*:

*Ah! if Jesus had chosen to show himself to all souls with his ineffable gifts, surely not one would have spurned him; but he does not want us to love him for his gifts; it is **Himself** that must be our reward.*

And so, we find ourselves as a parish family, like Peter in today's longer version of the Gospel, being carried to where we would rather not go.

Let us draw strength from St Peter and the cloud of holy saints who all had to endure, as our psalm says, that *night of tears*, and look forward to the *joy of dawn*, for the darkness will not last forever for those who trust in the Risen Lord.

Reflections

I should not dare to detach my gaze, well knowing that beyond the dark clouds, the sweet sun still shines. (St Therese of Lisieux)

Love and suffering are clearly linked, like the sun and the light. We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love. (St Gianna Beretta Molla.)

Suffering, if it is accepted together, if it is borne together, is joy. (St Teresa of Calcutta)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

In the "Transition Communications" section of our website, you can find Abbot Robert's statement regarding the **CLOSURE OF OUR PARISH**. There are other documents there as well including responses from parishioners and others as well as a letter from the Handover Group to the Ampleforth Abbey Trustees.

There will be a **PARISH MEETING** in the Hall after Mass next Sunday (11th May) to which you are all invited to air your views, share your concerns and ask questions.

The **CONCLAVE** convenes on Tuesday to begin the process of electing a new Pope. To assist them with our prayers, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for an hour after morning Masses.

The next **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION** meeting is Thursday **next week**, 15th May.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY Joseph Stuart Bateson who was baptised last Sunday.

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 27th. There is more information at the back of church and on the Archdiocesan website: www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk.

Thank you for the amazing response to last weekend's **FOODBANK COLLECTION** – the next one will be over the weekend of 14th/15th June.

PLEASE PRAY for Evelyn Farnworth who has died, 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.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 21 is number 20, Jeanette Hindle. The next block of 10 weeks starts this weekend so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year.

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.

Preston Orpheus Choir (which includes a number of our congregation) are having an “**INTRODUCTION TO HANDEL’S MESSIAH**” on Saturday 31st 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 poster at the back of church and on the choir’s website: www.prestonorpheuschoir.org.

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 16th May. Doors open at 7.00pm, show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Ann Atkin (07512311857) or see Frances Fordyce or Gill Fowler.

Bidding Prayers for 3rd and 4th May 2025

Priest: We bring our prayers to God our Father with confidence, knowing they will be heard.

Reader: We pray for the Church, for our Archbishop Malcolm, our Archbishop-elect John Sherrington and for all the clergy. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray that all who hold position of responsibility in the world treat all peoples, rich or poor, citizens or migrants, justly and fairly. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for all those suffering from the consequences of violence, in both major conflicts and personal confrontations. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray that the Holy Spirit guides the Conclave in their deliberations for the next Pope. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for the grace to recognise Christ in all the people we meet. Lord in your mercy.....

We pray for the parish community in this difficult time. Lord in your mercy.....

We ask Mary to add her prayers to ours as we say: Hail Mary.....

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

Priest: O Lord, listen to our prayers and guide us all the days of our life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<h3>PRAYER FOR THE SICK</h3>

<p>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.</p>
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<p>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.</p>
