

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Fifth Sunday of Easter 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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



*“Love one another, just as I have loved you”*

Alpha and Omega, First and Last, glory outshining all the lights of heaven: pour out upon us your Spirit of faithful love and abundant compassion, so that we may rejoice in the splendour of your works while we wait in expectation for the new heaven and the new earth you promise when Christ shall come again. Amen.

# THIS WEEK

Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	EBC	Saturday of Easter 4
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Stuart Dolphin	
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Monday of Easter 5
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Survivors of sexual abuse	Tuesday of Easter 5
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	Wednesday of Easter 5
Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Maureen O'Hara	Thursday of Easter 5
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	James Jeory	Friday of Easter 5
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Maureen Seacombe	Saturday of Easter 5
	6.00pm	For the Parish	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Pope's intentions	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>		M Russell		J Hothersall	
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>		R Conboy		J Slater	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	G Hopkinson	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	As arranged	<b>Collection counters</b>	C & K Snape
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>		L Lomax		P Cook	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>		B Cook		L Rigbye	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	B Kellett	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	As arranged	<b>Collection counters</b>	P & J Kitchen

**Last weekend attendance: 136, collection £367.45 – thank you!**

**Readings: Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-35.**

Our first reading from the *Acts of the Apostles* finds Saints Paul and Barnabus *encouraging* the disciples to continue in the faith and that it is *through many tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God*.

Sometimes, we read in these accounts of the first century church that all was calm, with the new converts remaining faithful to the teachings of the apostles, united in heart and soul to the brotherhood and the breaking of bread and to praying as a community sharing everything in common.

But there were also persecutions by people who just wanted to *close down* this new Christian movement – St Stephen being one of the first to be *closed down*.

There were also splits/divisions among this new community on matters of faith; of who is in or out with regard to the convert Jews and Gentiles, and of how one should live one's life as a Christian among other issues.

In the face of all of this, holding on to the faith must have been difficult for so many and it is to these that the saints offer *encouragement to persevere*.

St John too, is offering a vision of *encouragement* in his book of *Revelation* (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) of a new heaven and earth where all the tears of suffering will be wiped away by the God who loves them as a husband his bride.

The thing is, that from those earliest times, the people of God (people like you and me) have had to undergo lots of suffering and change, and through the tears and pain, they may lose sight of the only one who can help them – the God who has always been among them in his blessed Son Jesus, who walks with them and leads them towards the new and heavenly Jerusalem.

The numerous Saints are also with us on this journey and with their prayers, they continue as co-workers in Christ in the bringing about of this new creation and they intercede on our behalf, to persevere in faith come what may.

So let us always turn to them for *encouragement*, perhaps especially to *St Barnabus* whose name means *Son of Encouragement, Son of Consolation*.

## Reflections

*Remember that you have only one soul; that you have only one death to die; that you have only one life to be lived by you alone; and there is only one Glory, which is eternal. If you do this, there will be many things about which you care nothing. (St Teresa of Avila)*

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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In the "**TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS**" section of our website, you can find loads of documents relating to the future of our parish including the minutes and all the concerns and ideas from last Sunday's meeting as well as a list of addresses in case you want to write a letter airing your views. (There are also a few hard copies at the back of church but please use the online copies if you possibly can and so save the hard copies for those who don't use the internet.) In case you missed it, there's a link to an item about the possible closure which was on the BBC Radio Lancashire breakfast programme on Thursday morning.

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If you go to: <https://tinyurl.com/4ff694ty> – there's a brilliant bit of **DRONE FOOTAGE** of our lovely church and grounds. This link is also on our website.

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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 next Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Maureen O'Hara 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. We've also been asked to pray for the daughter of a parishioner who is having a difficult pregnancy.

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**100 CLUB:** The winner for week 23 is number 63, Greg Gorrell. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **subs are due** unless you've paid for the full year. If the proposed closure goes ahead, this will be our last block of 10 weeks and those who paid for the full year will be refunded the unused subs. If, as we all hope, the parish doesn't close down, the 100 Club will continue as now.

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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 poster at the back of church and on the choir's website: [www.prestonorpheuschoir.org](http://www.prestonorpheuschoir.org).

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**TEA AND COFFEE** are served in the Parish Room after Mass on Sunday morning – please join us.

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The **KEY FOR THE TOILETS** is available at the back of church during Mass.

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Can **PARKING** in front of the church be left for those who need it, please?

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If you're the last one out of church after a weekend Mass, could you please check that the lights are turned off and doors closed? Thank you.

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## Bidding Prayers for the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Priest:** We turn to our Father in heaven, that he may hear the prayers of His people and give them their Daily Bread, as we bring our needs before Him.

**Reader:** Let us pray for our new Pope, Leo XIV. Lord, grant him wisdom, guide him in preaching your Word as you intended it, to lead your people in faith and truth. Lord hear us...

We pray for your priests, our ministers and shepherds of your people. May they open the door of faith, that all your people may walk through to salvation. Lord hear us...

We pray for your suffering church throughout the world. May they know your love for them and grant them steadfast perseverance in their walk with you by their side. Lord hear us...

We pray for your people here in Brindle St Joseph's church. May we have that assurance of faith, that whatever happens to this church and buildings, will be according to your will. Lord hear us...

Let us ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to join us in prayer as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us now pray in silence for our own personal needs.

**Priest:** We thank you Almighty God, for whom nothing is impossible, for inviting your loved ones to bring our needs before you. Grant us the patience and perseverance to await their fulfilment. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. One God, for ever and ever. 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.