

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

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

## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY



*“Father, may they become perfectly one”*

God of boundless grace, you call us to drink freely of the well of life and to share the love of your holy being. May the glory of your love, made known in the victory of Jesus Christ our Saviour, transform our lives and the world he lived and died to save. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Margaret Holden	The Visitation of the BVM (feast)
	<b>SECOND COLLECTION: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS</b>		<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>
	6.00pm	Deceased members of the Phelan family	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> June	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass today</b>		Monday of Easter 7
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass: Peter Prescott</b>	St Charles Lwanga and companions (memorial)
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	The Winter family	Wednesday of Easter 7
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	EBC	St Boniface (memorial)
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Souls	Friday of Easter 7
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>CONFESSIONS</b>	Saturday of Easter 7
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions ( <i>Blessing of the sick during Mass</i> )	
	6.00pm	Philip Leather	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>
Sun 8 <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 31 <sup>st</sup>		C Williamson		G Hopkinson	
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> June		F Fordyce		S Schofield	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>		L Gardner		L Gardner	
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>		tba		M Gardner	
Bidding prayers	Fr Raphael	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell

**Last weekend attendance: 132, collection £371.50 – thank you!**

**Acts 7:55,60, Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20, John 17:20-26.**

Why did God make us?

Those of us of a certain age will remember the answer in our childhood *Catechism*: *To love and serve him in this world and to be happy with him in the next.*

Catholic theology and spirituality also teach that the capacity of a person to enjoy the *beatific vision* will depend upon their capacity to love and serve God in this life.

In our first reading, the martyrdom of St Stephen gives witness to the depths he was willing to go in his love and service when, even before he dies, he is privileged to a vision of the heavens opening and the sight of the *Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*

But it is Jesus to whom he pleads to receive his spirit and not to hold their sin against them, before he falls asleep.

In our desire to deepen our knowledge of God as we try to live up to that teaching from the *Catechism*, it is tempting to bypass Jesus, as if to cut-through him and go straight to the Father, perhaps awaiting visions, a deeper insight or perhaps a personal word from him.

After all, we may think that if the *Trinity* is one God, then it doesn't matter to which of the three persons we address our prayers – and doesn't Jesus say to Philip: *to have seen me is to have seen the Father.*

Of course, this is all true, after all, the prayer Jesus taught us is addressed to the Father.

But it is Jesus who teaches us the prayer and it is through him that the Father receives it – just as other prayers are addressed to the Father but *through Christ our Lord*.

In St John's Gospel, Jesus says to his disciples: *whatever you ask for in my name I will do it, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son ... and I shall ask the Father and he will give you another helper to be with you forever: the Spirit of truth*. (Jn 14)

The *Catechism* tells us that *there is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray in the name of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God the Father*. (CCC 2664)

This could be a reflection for the feast of the Trinity but it is not meant to be.

To repeat: before he died, St Stephen saw the *Son of Man* (Jesus) *standing at the right hand of God*. (The Father)

But it was not the Father to whom he addressed his prayer, but Jesus, who reveals himself as *the Way the Truth and the Life*.

God made us to love and serve him in this world and to be happy with him in the next and this can only be done through Jesus Christ who desires nothing more than for us to be happy with him in heaven, even though he cannot guarantee our happiness on earth.

So, as we intensify our prayers at this unsettling time, let us follow St Stephen's example and call upon the name of Jesus: *for the Spirit and the Bride say 'Come' and let the one who is thirsty come: let the one who desires take the water of life without price, for He who testifies to these things says, 'surely I am coming soon'*.

So together or alone, night and day, let us call upon his name:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus ... Maranatha**

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### Reflections

*The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy*. (St Teresa of Calcutta)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

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### This week's Saints

**St Charles Lwanga and 22 companions** (19<sup>th</sup> cent) were wrapped in reed mats and burnt alive for criticising the Ugandan King Mwanga for debauchery, murder and gross immoral acts. Most were converts from paganism, the youngest being only 13, and some worked as servants in the King's household. Within one year of their deaths, the catechumens in the country quadrupled. Charles Lwanga is the patron of Catholic Action and of Black African Youth since all of those Martyrs were under the age of 25.

**St Boniface** (675-754) born in Devon, educated in a monastery in Exeter and became a monk of the Benedictine monastery of Nursling near Southampton.

An enthusiastic teacher and preacher, he ended up preaching the Gospel to the heathens in Germany and became Bishop of Mainz. He founded and restored dioceses and helped reform the Frankish church. At over 70 years of age he was set upon and killed while awaiting some neophytes for confirmation. He is honoured as the Apostle of Germany.

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**THIS SUNDAY is World Communications Day** when we are asked to support the work of the Communications Directorate of the Bishops' Conference by the **SECOND COLLECTION**.

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**MASS ON TUESDAY** is at **10.30am**, Requiem Mass for Peter Prescott.

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**WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** Orhrán Alexander Hynds who was baptised last Sunday.

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Please keep your eye on the **"TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS"** section of our website – it will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

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**PLEASE PRAY** for Peter Prescott 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 25 is number 48, Mark Ainsworth. 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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### **Bidding Prayers – Seventh Sunday of Easter – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

**Priest:** Jesus said to his Father: "May the world know that you sent me and that we are as one". With confidence, we make our prayers to this same Father.

**Reader:** We pray for Pope Leo, that he leads the church in the ways of God. Lord hear us...

We pray for all those caught up in war zones, especially Gaza and Ukraine, that they soon know a just peace and are able to live fruitful lives without fear. Lord hear us...

We pray for all those caught up in the terrible event that happened in Liverpool and that everyone makes a complete recovery. Lord hear us...

We pray for the sick, the vulnerable and the housebound; may the Holy Spirit give them strength and consolation. Lord hear us...

We pray for our own parish and parishioners that we find certainty in these uncertain times and know that, whatever the future holds for the parish, God is with us. Lord hear us...

We turn to Our Lady, mother of God, to pray with us as we say: Hail Mary...

We now pause for a moment of silence as we pray for our own intentions.

**Priest:** Jesus said to his Father "May the love that is within me from you, be in them". Father, we pray for that love, 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.