

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Corpus Christi

22nd June 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 4)



“I am the living bread that came down from heaven”

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O Good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from you. From the wicked foe, defend me. At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you that with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 21 st	10.30am	Archbishop's intentions (First Holy Communions)	St Aloysius Gonzaga (memorial)
	6.00pm	John and May Elliott	Corpus Christi
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 23 rd	No Mass today		Feria (week 12)
Tue 24 th	9.30am	Monica Chatburn	The Nativity of St John the Baptist (solemnity)
Wed 25 th	9.30am	Vocations	Feria
Thu 26 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Feria
Fri 27 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (solemnity)
Sat 28 th	10.30am	Dorothy Hoole	The Immaculate Heart of the BVM (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: PETER'S PENCE		Ss Peter and Paul
	6.00pm	Vera and Joe Proctor	
Sun 29 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	
Sat 21 st		G Kellett		P Cook	
Sun 22 nd		B Cook		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce & J Grogan	Collection counters	C & K Snape
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 28 th		L Lomax		J Hothersall	
Sun 29 th		F Fordyce		J Kitchen	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen

Last weekend attendance: 120, collection £354.90 – thank you!

Thank you also for last weekend's collection for the Day for Life of £62.67 as well as for May's standing orders which averaged £228.06 per week.

Readings: Genesis 14:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 9:11-17.

Our Gospel reading of the feeding of the 5,000 is familiar to us all, where from 5 loaves and two fish, Jesus provides more than enough food for them all with 12 baskets left over.

Was this merely an exercise in sharing as some think – the kind of people who believe that all the miracles of the bible can be explained away through natural causes. Yet Jesus didn't tell them simply to share what little they may have had with those who had none.

Instead, he took the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves and set them before the disciples to give to the crowd, they all ate and were satisfied.

Besides, if God can create a universe from nothing, then how he chooses to order that universe, events or parts of it by suspending or bypassing what we would call natural processes, will not be beyond him – for whatever he does is natural to him.

The purpose of the miracles is to teach, therefore what is Jesus trying to teach us through the feeding of the five thousand?

Is he trying to teach us that from what we have received from him, whether a little or a lot, if placed back into his hands as gift, then through him, his Father will bless it and transform it for our greater glory and his?

Does the feeding of the five thousand point to the eternal banquet in heaven to which we are all invited, where hunger and suffering will be no more?

Back in the mists of time, a mysterious priest by the name Melchizedek, king of Salem, offers bread and wine to, surely the greatest of the patriarchs, Abram, who was called by God to be our father in faith. Yet even Abram had to pay his respects to this priest in the form of a tenth of his possessions and receive his blessing.

Moreover, the letter to the Hebrews tells us that Melchizedek, king of Salem, means king of righteousness and king of peace and this is thought to link with *Shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace and thereby to Jerusalem – *City of Peace* and the city of Jesus' death and resurrection.

So, the bread and wine of Melchizedek points to the feeding of the five thousand, itself pointing to the eucharistic celebration described by St Paul in our second reading which occurred barely a dozen years after the last supper and well before the Gospels were written we are told.

And all of this points to and prefigures our celebration here and now: the bread and wine which become the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, High Priest of the order of Melchizedek and Prince of Peace.

If the lesson of the feeding of the five thousand was no more than a lesson in sharing whatever we can with others, then that would be a lesson indeed; for is it naive to believe that if self-interest between individuals and nations were set aside, there would be more than enough of the world's resources to go around.

But the feeding of the five thousand teaches far more.

It speaks of a God who has a passionate love and compassion for his people who, although they don't realise it, hunger and thirst for his love and fulfilment – indeed it is a hunger and thirst for him, our Lord and God, who hungers and thirsts for our love and union with him forever.

The feast of Corpus Christi is the great celebration of the union and the means by which God has made that possible – the Holy Mass in which the bread and wine, offered by us to him, becomes the body and blood of Jesus his son, whom he offers to us.

Reflections

Jesus said: 'I am the living bread come down from heaven; if anyone eats this bread, he will live forever (Jn 6)

The Eucharistic is the heart and summit of the Church's life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once and for all on the cross to his Father; by this sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his body which is the Church. (CCC 1407)

It is Christ himself, the eternal high priest of the New Covenant who, acting through the ministry of the priests, offers the eucharistic sacrifice. And it is the same Christ, really present under the species of bread and wine who is the offering of the eucharistic sacrifice. (CCC 1410)

With prayers

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Nativity of St John the Baptist whom Jesus called the greatest of all the children born of woman. If all the prophets of old were pointing toward Christ, St John is the one who finally points him out: 'Behold the Lamb of God'.

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and **The Immaculate Heart of Mary** might be summarised in the following prayer:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the sorrowful and immaculate heart of Mary, your tender mother and ours.

This weekend our **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** will renew their commitment to their important ministry.

At the end of Mass this Sunday there will be a short **PROCESSION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** to mark Corpus Christi. It is hoped the children who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday will join us.

The **APF RED BOX** spring collection for Missio amounted to £340.88. Thanks, as ever, to contributors and collectors and to those who donate online.

NEXT SUNDAY is the Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul when the **SECOND COLLECTION** is for Peter's Pence. This collection provides financial support to the Holy Father for his charitable works, including aid to those affected by war, natural disasters and oppression around the world.

We could do with a few more volunteers for mowing etc in the **GRAVEYARD**. If you can help, please get in touch with Barry Spencer or Michael Cowsley. Thank you!

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

Thank you for last weekend’s **FOODBANK COLLECTION**. The next (and possibly final) one will be over the weekend of 9th/10th August.

PLEASE PRAY 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.

Please also remember in your prayers the eight young people of our Parish who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday. We pray also for their families.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 28 is number 76, Brian Doran. 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.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Summer), ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers.

Bidding Prayers – Corpus Christi, 21st and 22nd June 2025

Priest: Let us turn to God Our Father, as we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, to hear our prayers and grant us a love of the Eucharist that will never grow stale.

Reader: We pray for God’s blessings on those who serve the church and especially for the children and their families who made their First Holy Communion here this weekend. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need, those who are lonely, those without friends and for the sick and the dying and for all those who care for them. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray that enriched by sharing the Eucharist we are empowered to share our wealth with those who have no food and who face famine. May we continue to support foodbanks here and the work of CAFOD throughout the world. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for lasting peace in the Middle East and Ukraine and in so many places where there is no peace at present. Lord in your mercy...

Let us continue to pray every day for the future of our Parish, that it will not die despite the changes being forced upon us. Lord in your mercy...

Let us pray for all the victims of the recent Air India plane crash, that God will grant them a place in his Kingdom, and bring consolation to the families and friends they have left behind. Lord in your mercy...

Let us ask Mary, Mother of Jesus, to pray for us and with us as we say. “Hail Mary full of grace.....

We think now of those known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time. Let us remember them in a moment of silence.....

Priest: O God who live in us and through us, we offer these prayers, in your Spirit of 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.