

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th September 2025

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



*“Anyone who does not renounce all that he has
cannot be my disciple”*

Dear Lord, I pray that you give me the strength and courage to bear my own cross and follow you. Help me to trust in your plan for my life and to have faith that you will guide me through any challenges that come my way. May I always be willing to put aside my own desires and follow your will, knowing that you are the true source of joy and fulfilment. Thank you for calling me to be your disciple and may I always strive to live up to that calling. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 6 th	10.30am	Norman Jackson	BVM
	6.00pm	Joseph and Sheila Noblett	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 7 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 8 th	No Mass today		The Nativity of the BVM (feast)
Tue 9 th	No Mass today		Feria
Wed 10 th	No Mass today		St Ambrose Barlow (memorial)
Thu 11 th	9.30am	Peace in the world	Feria
Fri 12 th	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria
Sat 13 th	10.30am	Maureen Seacombe	St John Chrysostom (memorial)
	SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE		The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	6.00pm	Ann Lumb	
Sun 14 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 6 th		C Williamson		J Hothersall	
Sun 7 th		R Conboy		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	P & J Kitchen
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 13 th		L Gardner		L Gardner	
Sun 14 th		B Cook		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	L Gardner	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner

Last weekend attendance: 110, collection: £367.56 – thank you!

Thank you also for August's standing orders which averaged £171.61 per week

Readings: Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10,12-17, Luke 14:25-33.

I wonder how many of us would continue to be Christians if, suddenly, we were to know that on a certain day, we would be put to death for our faith unless we denied it.

We have just celebrated *St Edmund Arrowsmith*, one of the many martyrs who could have denied their faith and lived but who, within sight of the hangman's noose and the grizzly tools for their disembowelment, were willing, even happy, to die for their belief in God and the Catholic faith.

In today's Gospel, Luke has Jesus warning the crowds of the great cost being a follower of his would entail. Or to put it another way: what they would have to give up to be a follower of his: Father, mother, brother, sister, children, nothing short of life itself.

All of these things we must *hate* he says, if we are to take up our cross and follow him.

It is easy to look up the Greek word for *hate* and find that *miseo* does indeed mean 'hate' but we also need to learn that it doesn't mean it in the way we would use it today.

Rather, it means to love less or to be somewhat 'detached'.

Thus, in the context of his teaching, it means: to put nothing before Christ and yes, that does mean to love Christ more than father, mother brother, sister and life itself.

For he is the *pearl of great price*; the *buried treasure*, so precious that one is compelled to *sell everything one owns to possess it*. (Mt 13: 44-46)

Only last week, we prayed for the families and community where the shootings of two young children in America took place, and the savage injury to many others in a Catholic church at the start of the school term.

They were among the objects of a lone gunman's hatred (in the usual sense of the word) and targeted as such ... the cost of being followers of Christ.

Such events are a major challenge to our faith; for why does a loving God seem to just watch on as such horrors happen ... and to his own baptised innocent and loved ones?

The writer of our first reading ponders the mysterious workings of God's mind asking: who could discern the councils of God and his will when we can barely make sense of the world around us?

Maybe the incident will be one of the (sadly) many that may eventually awaken America to the need to change its liberal gun laws.

Meanwhile, for us here and now, could any of us know how we would respond if suddenly faced with the ultimate test of our faith.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden light. (Mt 11: 28-30)

Perhaps we would be more likely to do the right thing if we call upon Jesus to be at the very centre of our lives for, we do not carry our cross alone.

Reflection:

'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved? Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because all things are possible for God' (Mk 10: 26-27)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (nine months after the feast of her Immaculate Conception). This feast, like the Assumption of Mary, originated in Jerusalem. It began in the fifth century as the Feast of the "Basilica Sanctae Mariae ubi nata est", now called the Basilica of St Anne. In the seventh century, the feast was celebrated at Rome as the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Ambrose Barlow OSB (1585-1641)

Of a noble Catholic family of Barlow Hall, Lancs, Ambrose had conformed to the Church of England but returned to the Catholic Church and became a priest and later a monk of St Gregory's Douai, France. He returned to England and worked near Manchester and Liverpool for many years, working from Morleys Hall near Leigh.

He celebrated daily Mass and recited his Office and the Rosary. He was arrested several times over the course of years but eventually, after a stroke and many pleadings to escape, while saying Mass on Easter Sunday, he was surrounded by the Vicar of Leigh and 100 of his armed congregation, taken to Lancaster Castle and condemned to the usual gruesome death of those days. He was distinguished for his love of the poor, his wit and kindness and has been described by a contemporary as the man 'most likely to represent the spirit of Sir Thomas More'.

St John Chrysostom (347-407) – "Chrysostom" means "Golden mouth" – a renowned preacher and orator. In 398, as Archbishop of Constantinople, he reformed the corrupt morals of court, clergy and people.

There is **NO MASS ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY** this week.

NEXT SUNDAY IS EDUCATION SUNDAY when we are asked to pray for, and support by the **SECOND COLLECTION**, the work of the Catholic Education Service: www.catholiceducation.org.uk.

This Sunday, Pope Leo will canonize two young saints – **CARLO ACUTIS** and **PIER GEORGIO FRASSATI**. **Carlo Acutis**, a teenager who died of leukaemia in 2006 aged 15, continues to inspire people around the world with his love of the Eucharist. Since his First Holy Communion as a 7 year old he never missed daily Mass and always prayed in front of the tabernacle before and after Mass to worship the Lord truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. He put the eucharist at the centre of his life and called it "My highway to heaven". There are some prayer cards at the back of church. **Pier Giorgio Frassati** died in his 20s in 1924. He was an activist for justice

and a member of the Third Order of Dominicans, Catholic Action and the SVP. He is quoted as saying “Charity is not enough, we need social reform”. Please remember these youngsters in your prayers.

Please keep your eye on the “**TRANSITION COMMUNICATIONS**” section of our website – it gets updated regularly.

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.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 39 is number 73, Liz and Malcolm Russell. Given the uncertainty regarding the future of the Parish, we’ve decided to close the 100 Club after next week, 14th September; to have to close partway through a block of 10 weeks would be just too messy. Anyone who has paid up until the end of the club year will get a refund for their unused subs. Thank you all for your support over the years – hopefully we can restart the club in the not-too distant future.

CYCLE OF PRAYER: During Ordinary Time (Autumn), ie from September to Christ the King, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Student and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE – action needed! The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords **this Friday** (12th September). Right To Life UK has launched an EasyAction tool to help you write to a few peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill. Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers to ask peers to oppose assisted suicide – it takes just 30 seconds.

Sunday 7th September 2025 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priest: Jesus calls us to take up our cross, and so with hope and faith we turn to the Father in prayer.

Reader: We pray for the Church, that it will always work to share God’s love with all people, especially the poor, sick and ignored. Lord, in your mercy.

In this Jubilee Year, we pray that we may all be signs of hope and light in our world, through our actions and deeds. Lord, in your mercy.

We pray for children and young adults as they start a new school term. Grant them strength to overcome challenges and give them confidence to shine. Lord, in your mercy.

We pray that world leaders be given wisdom and integrity and that they work together for the good of all. Lord in your mercy.

We pray for our parish, family and friends: may we be disciples together and support each other in challenges and difficulties. Lord in your mercy.

We think about all those in our parish who have died, the bereaved and those in our cemetery who have no-one to pray for them. Lord in your mercy.

We pray for the parishioners of St Catherine Labouré parish, Farington, that they accept with grace the closure of their church. Lord in your mercy.

Let us think about all those who need our prayers, as we turn to Mary our Mother: Hail Mary...

In a moment of silence we make our own private prayers.

Priest: Loving Father we ask you to accept these prayers which we make 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.