

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 28th September 2025

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)

Day of prayer for thanksgiving for the harvest



Harvest Fast Day Prayer

Generous God, we praise and thank you for all that you have given us.

May the fast that we make remind us that all good things come from you and are intended for all.

Fill our hearts with your love and move us to be good neighbours to all our sisters and brothers.

Turn us away from indifference and lead us to work together to create a movement of hope.

Inspire us all to play our part, to build a better world where each and every person can share in the joy of your gifts. Amen.

(Catherine Gorman/CAFOD)

THIS WEEK

Sat 27 th	10.30am	Margaret Holden	St Vincent de Paul (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 28 th	9.30am	Maureen Spencer	
Mon 29 th	10.30am	Requiem: Bill Warbrick	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (feast)
Tue 30 th	No Mass today		St Jerome (memorial)
Wed 1 st October	9.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (memorial)
Thu 2 nd	9.30am	EBC	The Guardian Angels (memorial)
Fri 3 rd	9.30am	Holy Souls	Feria CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
Sat 4 th	10.00am	CONFESSIONS	St Francis of Assisi (memorial)
	10.30am	Vocations (Blessing of the sick during Mass)	
	SECOND COLLECTION: CAFOD		Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 5 th	9.30am	Joseph and Mary Snape	

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

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 27 th		G Kellett		P Fawcett	
Sun 28 th		K Slater		J Slater	
Bidding prayers	B Kellett	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	L & M Gardner
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 4 th		M Sherry		P Cook	
Sun 5 th		B Cook		S Schofield	
Bidding prayers	L Lomax	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last weekend attendance: 108, collection: £288.78 – thank you!

Thank you also for the collection for Home Missions of £65.78

Readings: Amos 6:1,4-7, Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31.

The parable Jesus gives for us today is about a rich man and a poor man whose fortunes are reversed after death.

For the rich man, who had lived in such luxury, is condemned to the flames of hell, while the poor man who lay unnoticed at his gate is being comforted by Abraham in heaven and an unbridgeable gulf lies between them.

It cannot easily be summarised without losing its richness, it needs to be read.

It has been said that the problem with the rich man is not that he did anything to the poor man (*Lazarus*), but that in the face of his poverty and need, he did nothing and we have all heard the saying about how evil flourishes when good men do nothing.

It is hard to know what Jesus would do if he were to walk the length of Fishergate in Preston.

Would he stop and offer comfort and hope with a reassuring smile and some kind words, perhaps a parable or two, to give them hope and to show that they were not forgotten? Would he throw money at them if he had any? Would he set up a soup kitchen or a meeting place for them where they could be warm and have company?

We do not know, but what we do know is that he wouldn't have ignored them or pretended not to see them ... he would have done **something** rather than nothing.

In his parable, Jesus is saying that our actions (or lack of them) have serious consequences with regard to our eternal future.

Thus, the rich man requests Lazarus to come over with a drop of water and cool his tongue – such is the torment of the flames. But the gulf cannot be crossed and it is too late for the rich man to change, for he has run out of the time to change.

So, in desperation, he pleads that his brothers be warned *lest they also come to this place of torment*.

They have Moses and the prophets replies Abraham, let them listen to them.

Prophets such as Amos who, in our first reading, warns against complacent, luxurious living while ignoring or even swindling the poor around them, as we heard last week.

But, replies the rich man, if someone should come back from the dead, **then** they will listen and repent.

And Abraham's reply cuts right to the heart of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees to whom he is addressing this parable and who claim to live their lives according to Moses and the prophets: *If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.*

How many times do we still hear people say: *if only someone were to come back from the dead then I would believe.*

Well, someone has come back from the dead and his name is *Jesus* ... but they don't like to hear that: *we don't do religion they say.*

So, from this parable, we are reminded of the *Four Last Things: death, judgement, heaven and hell.*

We learn that, though I may be able to claim never to have harmed anyone, it might also be the case that I have never actually done **anything** for them either.

It appears that the choices we make can only be made in **this** life; for once we are out of time, there is no time to change.

And finally: that at our lowest moments, we too may find ourselves saying how much easier faith would be if only *someone* were to come back from the dead and tell us.

Well, we are gathered in the name of the one who **did** come back from the dead to tell us:

Jesus Christ – who also tells us that he is here with us now and will be until the end of time.

Reflection

Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison and did not come to your help?

Then he will reply: I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to the least of these, you neglected to do it to me. (Mt 25: 44-46)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

Michael is mentioned in Revelation as the leader of the heavenly host. He is patron of soldiers and his name means Who is like God.

Gabriel appears in the book of Daniel where he explains some of the prophet's visions and he it is who visits Mary at the Annunciation. His name means Strength of God.

Raphael appears in the book of Tobit – is the travelling companion of his son and who provides the cure that drives out a demon from Tobias' intended and a cure to his father's blindness. His name means The Healing of God.

St Jerome (341(or 2)-420): monk, priest and doctor of the Church who translated the best part of the bible from its original languages to Latin – it became known as the Vulgate bible. He was known for his sarcastic and cantankerous temperament. Earlier in life he had reluctantly accepted Holy Orders but apparently never said a Mass and his life was beset with argument and controversy. He was unrivalled in learning except for St Augustine who was also around at that time.

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1873-97) also known as Thérèse of Lisieux who found God in holy obedience and the little things in life known as her 'Little Way'.

The Guardian Angels When speaking of children, Jesus warns ‘See that you never despise any of these little ones for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven’. (Mt 18:10) That each one of us has a guardian angel reminds us of God’s loving concern for every one of us.

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) born of a prosperous cloth merchant in Assisi but Francis renounced all he possessed, preferring to live in abject poverty. He preached to all the love of God and love of all God’s creation, because having given up everything, he now celebrated with exuberant thanksgiving all he received as gift. He wore an old brown garment begged from a peasant, tied around the middle with string. Ten years later, 5,000 followers were wearing it.

THIS WEEK Bill Warbrick’s funeral is on **Monday at 10.30am** and there is **no Mass on Tuesday**.

THIS FRIDAY, October 3rd, sees CAFOD’s annual **Harvest Family Fast Day**. Please consider making a donation to the Family Fast Day parish collection to share God’s abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers “signs of hope” in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré’s in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. CAFOD envelopes will be given out next weekend and the envelopes will be available at the back of church. Or donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.

During October we will say a decade of the **ROSARY** after weekday Masses.

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

PLEASE PRAY for Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick who have died, for those who are sick or housebound, as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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.

IN THE LIVING ROOM ‘The Save St Joseph’s Tour’ Saturday 11th October, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own tippie. New songs and a new guest singer. All proceeds to the (peaceful) fighting fund. The band wants to support the future of our historic community.

Bidding Prayers 26th Sunday of the year, 28th September 2025

(**Priest**) Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid and it is with these comforting thoughts that we turn to our heavenly Father with all our needs.

Please teach us to listen to the words of the church’s leaders, especially Pope Leo, and help us to understand and learn from their experience and knowledge. Lord in your mercy

We pray for leaders of all nations, that they may pursue ways that lead to peace, respect human rights and share the world’s generous resources. Lord in your mercy

We pray for migrants, refugees, victims of war and all who are far from their home. May we always show compassion and kindness to strangers. Lord in your mercy

At this time of year we think of those who produce the food that we eat. Bless them as they care for their livestock, harvest their crops, and work tirelessly to bring us food. Lord in your mercy

We pray for the people of St Joseph’s. Please help us to listen to the word of God and put it into practice, showing particular concern towards the poor and vulnerable. Lord in your mercy

We thank Our Lady for setting the best example for us to follow. We pray that we are always able to follow in her path as we say: Hail Mary...

We make our private petitions in silence to God our Father.

(**Priest**) Lord God, hear our prayers and those silently offered in our hearts through Jesus 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.