

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 26th October 2025

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



“God, be merciful to me, a sinner”

O God, the strength of those who humbly confess their sin and place their hope in you, save us from vain displays of righteousness, and give us grace to keep faith with the true humility of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 25 th	10.30am	Kevin Bailey	BVM
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 26 th	9.30am	Ray Jackson and Stuart Dolphin	
Mon 27 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 28 th	No Mass today		Ss Simon and Jude (feast)
Wed 29 th	7.00pm	Mass of Thanksgiving	Feria
Thu 30 th	9.30am	To be advised	Feria
Fri 31 st	9.30am	To be advised	Feria
Sat 1 st November	10.30am	To be advised	Feria
	6.00pm	To be advised	All Saints
Sun 2 nd	9.30am	To be advised	

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 25 th		C Williamson		L Gardner	
Sun 26 th		C Snape		F Fordyce	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	As arranged	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister	
Sat 1 st		tba		tba	
Sun 2 nd		tba		tba	
Bidding prayers	tba	Children's Liturgy	tba	Collection counters	tba

Last weekend: attendance: 138, collection: £383.17 – thank you!
Thank you also for the collection for APF/World Missions of £86.60

Readings: Sirach 35:15-17,20-22, 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18, Luke 18:9-14.

The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord.

This snippet from our first reading reminds us of the persistent widow of last week, berating the unjust judge day and night until he gave her the righteous judgement she sought. And ever since last year's announcement of my being withdrawn from the parish and all the further announcements that seemed to plummet us into a further darkness, our prayers have been battering at that *cloud of unknowing*, trying to pierce the darkness in hope of a glimmer of light.

As I write this, there is still no light and last week after the Mass in the parish room, I could feel the frustration of not knowing where, for example, one would be attending come November. The children's liturgy group wouldn't know whether to plan for the following week's Mass.

People and bills need paying, but after I have left, how will that be done and numerous other questions.

Between starting this reflection and this coming weekend, we may have some idea of the future at least for an interim period, but the pain we are all being put through might serve, in a strangely inverse way, to give us, at least, moments of encouragement.

Jesus stands for many things, but foremost must be that he is the *innocent victim* of suffering and so, can he be a pattern for us? Can we identify with him, and through identifying with him, can he give us encouragement? If we look at the martyrs, past and present, we see innocent suffering and they become for us, examples of faith since they model their lives on the life of Christ's own innocent suffering.

But of course, innocent suffering doesn't always lead to loss of life as with someone like St Edmund Arrowsmith. Martyrdom comes as part of the package of what it means to carry the cross or little crosses that God gives each one of us in our lives and if we look to him to help us carry them then we are configuring our lives to his suffering in innocence.

Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls - yes, my yoke easy and my burden light. (Mt 11:28)

What a wonderful thought; what a wonderful offer - that God himself will help us to carry our cross.

So, why does this same God inflict upon us these burdens ... these crosses? Spiritual writers will tell us that he does this in order to strengthen our resolve and dependence upon him alone especially as we get older and our burdens heavier. But there is another way of looking at these crosses or burdens, and that is to see them as lacking something. Evil, for example, is a lack of the good.

So, these burdens are not so much something created by God but more something that *lacks goodness* as has famously been put: a hole in a sock represents an absence of sock; a good sock does not have holes in it – a hole is an absence of good and the hole makes you painfully aware of that absence.

Evil then has been defined as an absence or short-falling of the good. We wouldn't think of a hole in a sock as evil or necessarily the crosses we have to bear as evil, but they all have in common an absence of the good we all seek and which is ultimately to be found in God alone. We wouldn't want to describe our present circumstances here at Brindle as evil, but there is definitely an absence of clarity and light with instead; uncertainty and sadness.

Finally, can any of us honestly say that we are *innocent sufferers* as we undergo this communal pain?

Are we not reminded at every Mass: *Lord I am not worthy* ... and doesn't today's Gospel spell out for us the correct disposition we should have before God; with the parable of the tax collector who recognizes his need of God's mercy and forgiveness and the pharisee who doesn't.

We do not deserve the blessings we do have from God and which so easily, we take for granted, for all blessing are gifts hence with thanksgiving, we count our blessings.

Too often, we allow the devil to get his talons of uncertainty and morbid despair into us. So, I think the best thing for all of us to do at this difficult time, is to bombard those clouds with our prayers, but with the humility of the tax collector: *God, be merciful to me, a sinner*. That is the kind of prayer that will pierce our *cloud of unknowing*; and to pray the *Serenity Prayer* for the grace to accept and move forward with whatever God in the end, permits.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

It has been my pleasure to have served you and God here at Brindle St Joseph's these past seventeen years. Apologies to those whom I may have upset and to those I have not managed to visit.

With prayers and thanks for all your support and may you remain close to the Lord and the Lord to you, whatever the future brings.

Fr Raphael.

This week's Saints

Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles of Christ. Simon the Zealot, also known as Thaddaeus, was the brother of James. Both are thought to have preached and been martyred in Persia. Jude is patron of hopeless or lost causes, apparently because for many years, unlike all other saints, he was not invoked for anything because his name was confused with that of Judas Iscariot. Now however, when invoked, he favours even the most hopeless of clients!!

There is no 9.30am Mass on **WEDNESDAY** but at 7.00pm there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for Benedictine Ministry to our parish. Archbishop John Sherrington will preside and Abbot Robert Igo will preach. After this Mass, there will be light refreshments in the Parish Hall.

AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY 26th there will be a celebration up at the hall with tea and coffee and light refreshments where we can show Father our appreciation for his service at St Joseph's, everyone is welcome to attend. (This will start at around 10:45, once Mass has finished.)

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ends **THIS WEEKEND** – clocks should be put **BACK** one hour overnight Saturday/Sunday

PLEASE PRAY for Fred Graham who has died, for all 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.

FOLLOWING A H&S SURVEY OF THE GRAVEYARD, a number of gravestones were identified as requiring attention. This ranges from requiring immediate attention, to preventative maintenance. The relevant gravestones have been marked with red/white hazard tape. Please could family/relatives address the issue? If no living family can be identified, the most insecure gravestones may have to be laid flat on the ground.

No unsupervised children should be allowed in the graveyard.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH “Crafty Christmas Market” Saturday 15th November 10.00am to 2.30pm. See the poster on the noticeboard for more information.

Bidding Prayers for the 30th Sunday - 25th and 26th October 2025

Priest: We trust and hope in the goodness of the Lord and we bring to Him our needs.

Reader: Let us pray for our Primary School which has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of the new building. May we include all past and present teachers and young people. *Lord in your mercy*

We pray for peace and an end to violence and conflict across the world. May our leaders be inspired to seek new paths to end wars and give hope to everyone for a return to peace and safety. *Lord in your mercy...*

We commend to your goodness all who are anxious or distressed in mind or body. We pray You will comfort and relieve them in their need and bring them out of their troubles to peace. *Lord in your mercy...*

Let us all pray for Father Raphael, who has been our Priest and shepherd for 17 years. May he be content in his new role at Ampleforth. *Lord in your mercy...*

Dear Lord, we pray that the Archbishop of Liverpool, John Sherrington, can find in his heart a solution to the problem we face of continued pastoral care which enables everyone in the Parish to maintain their faith and worship, here in our beloved church. *Lord in your mercy...*

Now let us unite our prayers with the prayers of Our Lady as we say – “*Hail Mary.....*”

In a moment of silence let us bring our own personal intentions to the Lord.....

Priest: Lord God, you wish us to come to you, and you welcome us with open arms. Let us remember you are always there for us. **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.