

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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## Second Sunday of Christmas

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 2)



*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”*

Lord, we thank you for the Word made flesh. We thank you for that flesh sacrificed for our righteousness. Thank you that we are given your Word through the Bible. We are given your word from the pulpit, and we are given your word to go forth in forgiveness and mercy every day. Lord, where your Word convicts us, let us repent and turn to you. Where your Word comforts, let us sit in peace and comfort. And Lord, where your Word sends us, let us go boldly, proclaiming your goodness and your mercy to the ends of the Earth. This, we pray in the name of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# THIS WEEK

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.30pm	For the Parish	Second Sunday of Christmas
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	For peace in the world	The Epiphany
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Kathleen Greenwood	The Baptism of the Lord

This week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> January		M Sherry, F Fordyce		S Schofield, J Kitchen, J Hothersall	
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, C Curwen	Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell
Next week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>		C Snape, L Lomax		M Gardner, P Fawcett, P Cook	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler	Collection counters	C Moffatt & C Williamson

Last weekend: attendance: 81, collection: £210.85 – thank you!

Thank you also for the Christmas collection of: £738.19

## Mass Times St Bede's, Clayton Green

Saturday, Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday, 11.00am, weekdays: Tuesday and Friday 9.15am  
(Please see their website for any changes: <https://stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk>)

## St Chad's, Whittle-le-Woods

Sunday, 9.15am, weekdays: Monday and Thursday 9.15am  
(Please see their website for any changes: <https://stchads-southhill.org>)

**TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK** is the Solemnity of the **Epiphany of the Lord** – a Holyday of Obligation.

Epiphany is Greek for manifest or make known, reveal or shine upon. The feast originated in the east primarily to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord which is still the emphasis in the eastern churches today and gradually became connected to the nativity from about the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. By the 4<sup>th</sup> century the feast was introduced into the western church and became associated more with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In his sermon for this day, St Leo says: 'In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the creator of the universe'. The marriage feast of Cana was added to this feast which St John describes as the first sign given by Jesus in order to let his glory be seen. This feast then celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, in his baptism and in the wedding feast at Cana.

There is Mass at here at Brindle at 6.00pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>.

**IF YOU REQUIRE A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY**, please contact Fr Mark Beattie on 01257 460154. For all other queries, contact Fr Graeme Dunne on 01257 262462.

**FR RAPHAEL** sends his best wishes for 2026. He was pleased to hear how well our Christmas Mass went – he said that our attendance of 220 was more than they had at Ampleforth!

We're unable to deliver the **MISSIO CALENDARS** for 2026 – please help yourself to one from the back of church, even if you're not a regular contributor.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:** From February 2026, children in Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be a series of 6 meetings for parents and children. At present we are not sure where they will take place, but they will be on a Thursday and will last no longer than 1 hour.

If you wish to be enrolled as part of the Sacramental Programme and do NOT attend St Joseph's School please could contact Mrs Fordyce – 07813123855/frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk

**Confirmation:** In January children in school years 8 & 9 will be invited to be confirmed. St Mary's High School will commence this programme and any child that attends the school will be able to join. Alternatively if you wish to enrol with the Parish, then you will have to access this by completing the form on the Archdiocesan of Liverpool website. Children who do NOT attend St Mary's High School will be able to enrol with diocese via the Archdiocese of Liverpool website.

If you have any queries regarding First Communion or Confirmation, please contact Mrs Fordyce – details above.

Thank you, Mrs F Fordyce, Parish Sacramental Co Ordinator.

## **Gospel: John 1:1-18**

The Gospel reading for this Second Sunday after Christmas is the same as that for Christmas Day itself. Perhaps, after all the celebrations of Christmas, there is room for a more sober thought. The climax is not at the end of the reading, but is in the centre: 'to those who believe he gave power to become sons of God'. On either side of this verse are rejection by his own people, and acceptance by those who see his Glory.

This theme of acceptance and rejection runs right through the gospel of John, some accepting (the disciples, Nicodemus, the Man Born Blind), some rejecting (the Pharisees, the leaders of the Jews). The disciples accept at the Marriage Feast at Cana; the leaders of the Jews immediately afterwards reject at the Cleansing of the Temple.

You cannot remain neutral; you must either accept or reject. It is a great trial-scene, and we judge ourselves by our reaction to Jesus. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, but the Son judges no one. The last dread scene is when the Jewish leaders pass sentence on themselves before Pilate and before Jesus crowned as king and seated as judge; they reject God's kingship by saying, 'We have no king but Caesar'. There is no need for sentence to be passed, for we pass our own sentence on ourselves.

Does it make sense to say that we judge ourselves?

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

## **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.