

## Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

[www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection)

## 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.

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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

## PEACE SUNDAY/OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



*"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world"*

Steadfast God, you have enriched and enlightened us by the revelation of your eternal Christ. Comfort us in our mortality and strengthen us to walk the path of your desire, so that by word and deed we may manifest the gracious news of your faithfulness and love. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 17th	4.30pm	For the Parish		Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	For the Parish		Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>This week</b>		<b>Readers</b>		<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup></b>		C Williamson, M Russell		S Schofield, G Hopkinson, J Kitchen
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	C Snape, J Kitchen	Collection counters
<b>Next week</b>		<b>Readers</b>		<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<b>Sat 24<sup>th</sup></b>		G Hopkinson, R Conboy		L Gardner, J Hothersall, F Fordyce
Bidding prayers	J Beeley	Children's Liturgy	J Grogan, C Curwen	Collection counters
				P & J Kitchen

Last weekend: attendance: 109, collection: £255 – thank you!

### 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-southill.org>)

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

**Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:** From February, 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 on 07813123855 or [frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk).

**Confirmation:** This month, 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.

Please remember, that there will be a **meeting of the Parish and Archbishop John** in the church **this Monday, 19 January at 7pm**. Representatives from Ampleforth will also be there. This is the final public consultation available to us. At the back of church, there are copies of questions put to the Archbishop and a few copies of the **COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH** and these are also in the "Transition Communications" section of the website. The email address to use if you wish to communicate your views is [sjconsultation@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:sjconsultation@rcaol.org.uk) – submissions need to be made by 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**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.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** During Ordinary Time (Winter), ie up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.

There is **TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY** – please come along – you'll be most welcome.

### This week's Saints

**Wednesday: St Agnes**, Virgin and Martyr (d 305): a twelve- or thirteen-year-old who refused marriage due to her dedication to Christ. She was denounced and killed by the sword.

Because her name resembles Agnus, (Latin for lamb) the lamb became her emblem in art. Moreover, on her feast day, the lambs are blessed whose wool will be used to make the pallia worn by archbishops and which are made by the nuns of St Agnes Convent, Rome. In 1903, (rather gruesomely) her head was examined and found to be that of a girl of about twelve years of age.

**Saturday: St Francis de Sales**, Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Church (1567-1622). As a priest, much of his time was given to winning people back from Calvinism which he achieved through effective preaching and being driven more by love than anything else, but Calvinism always posed a threat to his life. As Bishop he was devoted to the reorganization of his diocese but especially to the caring of souls through his preaching and spiritual guidance. He taught that whoever wants to preach effectively must preach with love and that all can live a devout and spiritual life, for holiness is not reserved just for monks and hermits. He was held in such high respect that a Calvinist minister said, "if we honoured anyone as a saint, I know of no-one since the days of the Apostles more worthy than this man".