

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th August 2024

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



“I am the bread of life”

God of hope, when your hungry people longed for the slave food of Egypt, you opened the doors of heaven and rained down manna. Feed us with the bread of life at your table, that we may taste the freedom of eternal life and lead lives worthy of our calling, through Christ our head. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Confessions	BVM
	10.30am	Abbot's intentions (Anointing of the sick during Mass)	
	6.00pm	Julie Telford	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 4 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 5 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 6 th	No Mass today		The Transfiguration of the Lord (feast)
Wed 7 th	No Mass today		Feria
Thu 8 th	No Mass today		St Dominic (memorial)
Fri 9 th	9.30am	Eucharistic Service	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (feast)
Sat 10 th	10.30am	Abbot's intentions	St Laurence (feast)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 11 th	9.30am	Frank Thompson	

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

This week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 3 rd	C Williamson	G Hopkinson	Not open
Sun 4 th	K Slater	L Rigbye	Not open
Bidding prayers	L Russell	Collection counters	J & K Slater
Next week	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Bookshop
Sat 10 th	G Hopkinson	J Hothersall	Not open
Sun 11 th	L Rigbye	S Schofield	Not open
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Collection counters	C & K Snape

Last weekend: attendance: 99, collection: £354.40 – thank you!

Readings: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15, Ephesians 4:17,20-24, John 6:24-35.

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness...

Why were they complaining so soon after their miraculous escape from slavery in Egypt by the mighty hand of God?

They had witnessed all kinds of strange events sent by God to persuade the stubborn Pharaoh to change his mind and let them go: plagues of water turning to blood, of frogs, locusts, death of all the livestock, skin eruptions, hail, darkness over all the land and eventually the death of all the firstborn of all who had not protected themselves by daubing their lintels of their houses with the sacrificial blood of the lamb or goat.

The culmination of the miracles was the crossing of the sea while the mighty hand of God held back the waters.

Such mighty portents from God should have been enough for the people to have no further fear of their future, since the one mighty God was looking after them – yet they hanker for the past and complain against Moses and Aaron and thereby against God.

Could the reason for their complaining be that those events only became miraculous in the telling and re-telling of them? That they were natural events: hot and dry winds drying out a swampy area – enough to allow them to cross on foot but not for anything heavier like a chariot?

In today's reading, God answers their complaint by providing quails and manna, but even these have been ascribed to natural causes: quails migrate at that time of year and the manna is a sweet secretion from the tamarisk tree (or bush) which can be found to this day.

As ever, with anything in the bible, we can only make sense of it in the light of Jesus Christ.

For those of faith in the one true God, it is a miracle that we exist at all. If God can create from nothing, then he is more than capable of providing for his people be it miraculous or natural ... what is important is that he provides and wants to provide for us his people.

And so, we remember last week's feeding of the 5,000 ... and in today's gospel, Jesus wants to remind the people of that too.

The simple message of both the *Old* and the *New Testament* is that God wants us to seek, not just what he provides, but himself. He wants his people to depend upon him alone and to be *at one* with him, that is the meaning of atonement if you look closely at the word.

So, Jesus tells the people not to chase after him for food that cannot last but seek only the food that lasts forever, *the kind that the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal* and that the five barley loaves and the two fish were but a sign pointing to the reality ... the real food ... the real bread ... himself: *I am the bread of life and he who eats me will never hunger and he who believes in me will never thirst.*

When we take normal food and drink, it becomes part of us but, with Christ, we become part of him while yet he lives ever more deeply in us.

What could be more miraculous: the creator of all that exists, from the smallest particle to all that the scientists get boggle-eyed about without knowing who or what to thank ... this creator of all things, seeks each one of us out, because he wants us to be *at one with him* forever.

And so, as with those in the desert with Moses and as with the 5,000 with Jesus on the hillside, we too gather to be fed, but for us it is with the bread of eternal life, our Lord himself.

That is our thanksgiving, our Eucharist, could there be any greater miracle?

Reflections

The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life. (St Thomas Aquinas)

If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion. (St Maximilian Kolbe)

O sublime humility! O humble sublimity! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble himself like this and hide under the form of a little bread, for our salvation. (St Francis Assisi)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

This week's commemorations

The Transfiguration upon the mountain where, in the company of Moses and Elijah and his closest disciples, Jesus' glory shines forth as a dazzling white light and the Father's voice is heard saying 'This is my Son the Beloved. Listen to him...' an affirmation of who Jesus really is and of the glory he shares with all who listen to him.

Saint Dominic (1170-1221) was a Castilian priest, founder of the Dominican Order and patron saint of astronomers.

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross ODC Patron of Europe. (1891-1942) Edith Stein, born of Jewish parents became a prominent philosopher, converted to Catholicism after reading an autobiography of St Teresa of Avila, became a Carmelite in a convent in Cologne and took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

With the Nazi threat, she was sent to the Netherlands but was eventually arrested and sent to Auschwitz where she died in the gas chambers.

St Laurence the Deacon d 258. (Martyr) A deacon of the Church of Rome under the emperor Valerian.

Though unhistorical, the story goes that when asked to hand over the church's treasures, he pointed to the many poor and said 'these are the church's treasures', indeed he had given the treasures to the poor. As a result he was burned alive on a gridiron but yet had the presence of mind to inform his torturers that he was done on one side, might he be turned over. What is known of him is that he was prominent in almsgiving and compassion for the poor. In art he is often depicted with a gridiron or a purse of money for the poor.

He is the Patron of Ampleforth Abbey.

There are **NO WEEKDAY MASSES** this week but there will be a **EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE ON FRIDAY** at 9.30am.

There is a **FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**. During the holidays, many families do not have access to free school meals so the demand on Foodbanks is greater than usual.

I have received a **REQUEST FOR THREE SUNDAY MASSES** but with no intentions. If the donor could get in touch, I would be grateful.

Also, I have received a cheque for **£800** from the proceeds of the recent **FAMILY FUN DAY** – thank you!

TEA AND COFFEE after Sunday Mass will continue throughout the summer holiday period thanks to those who have so generously volunteered to help. Please come along – you'll be very welcome..

Again this Sunday, I am covering the 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart, Chorley, so I will be dashing off straight after our 9.30am Mass. **IF YOU PARK IN CHAPEL FOLD**, please leave room for me to get out in my car – thank you!

This year's **ARROWSMITH WALK** will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August. More details in due course.

SCAFFOLDING – please take great care around the church while the scaffolding is up. Apologies for any inconvenience caused by this essential preventative work.

MISSALETTES FOR SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME can be used on ferial days of the same week – the readings, psalm and Gospel acclamation will be different but the antiphons and prayers are the same.

PLEASE PRAY for those who are sick or housebound including Michael Bolton, Isaac Wilson, 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 34 is number 26, Samantha Doran. The next block of 10 weeks has started so **SUBS ARE DUE**.

DURING ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER) ie up to September, we are asked to pray for these intentions: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS: If you or someone you know would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplain while in hospital, please ring 01257 262713 (for Chorley hospital) or 01772 719604 (for Preston). For St Catherine's Hospice, contact Browndedge St Mary's on 01772 335168.

In the unlikely event of the need to evacuate church for any reason, the **ASSEMBLY POINT** is in Chapel Fold, by the statue of St Joseph.

The **KEY FOR THE TOILETS** is available at the back of church during Mass.

If you're the last one out of church after a weekend Mass, could you please check that the lights are turned off and doors closed? Thank you.

Bidding Prayers – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 4th August 2024

Priest: Father, as we come together in worship, we ask you to listen to our prayers.

Reader: Jesus tells us that he is the bread of life. Help us to find our faith in his words, so that we may never go hungry. Lord in your mercy...

For all those affected by the violent death and injury of their children in Israel, Palestine and our own country – give them the strength to carry on as they try to live with grief, anger and unimaginable loss. Lord in your mercy...

As Olympic athletes come together to celebrate sporting achievements, may we take inspiration to pray for a world where mankind is united and free from war. Lord in your mercy...

For ourselves – there are things we wish we hadn't thought, said or done. Help us to see that it's never too late to be forgiven, to forgive ourselves or to forgive others and begin again. Lord in your mercy...

We think of all those in our parish who feel abandoned or in despair. May they be comforted as we say together: Hail Mary...

We take a moment to offer up our own prayers.

Priest: Father, we place our needs, hopes and fears in your hands. We make these prayers 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.