

Fully escorted **PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE**, Ireland, from 13th May. £649.00 per person sharing. See the poster on the noticeboard,

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in Matthew 5:1-7,11 that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel – Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God. The word blessed in this context might be translated as "happy", "fortunate" or "favoured".

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of "woes," those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation... these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

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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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th February 2019

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

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



*"Happy are you who are poor,
yours is the kingdom of God"*

THIS WEEK

Sat 16 th	10.30am	Hilda Martindale	BVM
	SECOND COLLECTION: RACIAL JUSTICE		Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 17 th	9.30am	Deceased of the Walmsley & Sempers families	
Mon 18 th	No Mass today		Feria
Tue 19 th	9.30am	Kathleen Williams	Feria
Wed 20 th	9.30am	Sheila Margaret Cowsley	Feria
Thu 21 st	9.30am	In thanksgiving (EN)	Feria
Fri 22 nd	9.30am	Hilda Martindale	The See of St Peter (feast)
Sat 23 rd	10.30am	Fr Thomas Cullinan OSB	St Polycarp (memorial)
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sun 24 th	9.30am	For peace in the world	

CONFESSIONS: FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00am OR BY APPOINTMENT

This week	Welcomers	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Bookshop	Bidding Prayers
Sat 16 th	Mr & Mrs P Smith	L Lomax	P Fawcett, P Cook, L Gardner	C Jamieson	P Thompson
Sun 17 th	C Curwen	M McDonald	M Gardner, J Slater, F Fordyce	K Slater	
	Server	Mick	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce & G Fowler	
Next week	Welcomers	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Bookshop	Bidding Prayers
Sat 23 rd	P Fawcett	M Russell	J Hothersall, L Gardner, J Kitchen	L Lomax	J Beeley
Sun 24 th	T Greenwood	L Rigbye	L Rigbye, F Thompson, B Gore	C Snape	
	Server	Paul	Children's Liturgy	A Fowler, M Reed & T Driver (Bidding Prayers & Our Father)	

Collection Counters: P & J Kitchen

Thank you for last Sunday's offering of £505.29
Last weekend's attendance: 150

PLEASE PRAY for Stuart Dolphin, Marlene Parkinson & all who are sick or housebound as well as for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

IF YOU REQUIRE A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY & cannot contact me, please ring St Mary's, Chorley – 01257 262537.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 10 is number 2, Monica Bolton.
The next block of 10 weeks starts **next Sunday** & subscriptions are due.

MY DAY BY DAY for February is available – price £1.

This Sunday is **RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** & there is a **SECOND COLLECTION** to support the Church's work in that area.

NEXT WEEKEND'S BULLETIN will be prepared on Thursday this week so items need to be with Mick by **Wednesday evening** at the latest.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION meeting 2 – **next Thursday** (28th) at 6.00pm in the Parish Room.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT from the Archdiocesan Marriage & Family Life Department. The course is for any person who is going through, or has gone through, a relationship breakdown. Topics will cover: Facing the effects of what's happened, Communication & Conflict Resolution, Letting Go, Managing other relationships, Legal matters & Being single & moving forward. For further details contact: Maureen 07967753371 or Jacqui 07793825815.

The **YOUTH GROUP'S FINAL MEETING** will be after Mass **next Sunday** (24th).

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

As a Deanery, it's been a while since we set aside time to reflect on our ministry as **READERS**. Until such time as we can, may I ask all who kindly read to reflect upon their articulation, enunciation, delivery & perhaps, the need to slow down & adequately prepare beforehand.

On 29th January, St Joseph's **PRIMARY SCHOOL** underwent an **RE INSPECTION** & received "outstanding" in the inspector's report.

I'm sure you will want to join me in congratulating & thanking all the staff, governors & pupils for their hard work & a special "thank you" to Mrs Ward for her inspired leadership as Head & to Kate Armstrong who chairs the governing body.

GREGSON GREEN GOLDEN BALL – Saturday 16th March at the Leyland Hotel. Three-course meal, entertainment & dancing. Tickets £35 per head. Contact Ann Atkin or Gill Fowler for more information.