

# GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

January 3rd 2021

## Second Sunday of Christmas (Year B)

### *Christ, the Wisdom of God*

*We celebrate Christ, the incarnate Wisdom of God, who has come to dwell in our midst, the true light that overcomes the darkness and enlightens all people*

#### Mass

**First Reading: *Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12***

**Responsorial Psalm 147: 12-15, 19-20**  
**The word was made flesh,**  
**and lived among us.**

**Second Reading: *Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18***

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

**Hymns All NEH ( Green ):**

**Introit: 297 Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Gradual: 46 Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear**  
**Offertory 296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour**  
**Communion 295 Let all mortal flesh keep silence**  
**Recessional: 26 Hark! the herald angels sing**  
**(All can be heard sung on Youtube. )**

## Notices:

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### **New Year's Eve - Thursday 31 December - Zoom Social**

The Thursday Zoom Mass will be celebrated as usual at 7:00pm but to mark the occasion will be followed by a short "Social" with a quick quiz and a competition to find who can show us the most unusual Christmas decoration. All welcome; please come in festive clothing, ready to show your most unusual decoration and with a drink to hand to toast the New Year.

Reminder: The Thursday Zoom access number is 782 8019 6572#

### **Fr Giles**

### **Collection for Fr Michael**

Several people have asked about showing how grateful we are to Fr Michael for all he has done during the interregnum for both our parishes. Fr Michael has an important birthday coming up on 10th January and we think this would be an appropriate time to say our thank yous.

The parish treasurers have agreed that all donations should be sent to Margaret Breedon . Her address is Babbington House, Babbington. Nottingham. NG16 2SS. If you would prefer to pay money directly into the Holy Trinity PCC bank account the details are: NatWest Ilkeston branch, 60 11 37 account number 05406153 - please let Margaret know how much you have given. If you are unable to do either of the above please ring Margaret on 0115 944 0020 and tell her how much you wish to give. She will collect it from you when we are back together but will take an appropriate amount from church funds in the meantime. Please can you send everything to Margaret by Tuesday 5th January. Please make all cheques payable to Holy Trinity PCC. **Nicky, Geoff, Simon and Jennifer**

### **Bob Hulls**

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of Bob, the husband of Jennifer our churchwarden. He had recently suffered from an incurable illness and his death was a blessed release. Please remember Bob, Jennifer and her family in their hour of need and hold them in your prayers.

## About today's Mass readings: Second of Christmas Fr David writes:

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### First Reading: *Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12*

This wonderful poem, of which we read all too short an extract, celebrates the splendour of Jerusalem, where the Wisdom of God, the Law, took root. The author loves the Law, the Temple and Jerusalem with all his heart, as the gift and manifestation of God. God creates by his Wisdom, the master-plan and agent of creation. Wisdom, expressed in the Law, is also the master-plan which guides God's image and representative, which teaches us how to live as the image of God. So our author sees Jerusalem as the visible symbol of all the beauties of God's creation. We Christians, however, see Christ as this Wisdom of God, who took root in his Chosen People, and in Jerusalem – or at least in Bethlehem, five miles away. For us, then, this hymn is a celebration of God's Wisdom in Christ, taking root in the human race. In Colossians Paul hymns Christ as Wisdom, the first-born in creation and the first-born from the dead. In the great hymn at the beginning of Ephesians Christ is described as the climax in whom all creation is summed up, in whom God 'brings everything together under Christ as head'. The completion of creation is, then, the fullness of the Incarnation which we celebrate at Christmas.

### Second Reading: *Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18*

The sevenfold blessing, with which St Paul begins his letter to the Christians in Ephesus, sums up God's plan of salvation for humanity. The climax is in the centre, 'to bring everything under Christ as head'. Christ is the Wisdom of God, the plan according to which and through which all things were created. Christ is also the completion of the creation, and the unity of all things in Christ is a special emphasis of the whole letter. All things are under Christ as head creation, all nourishment for creation and all guidance of creation. In ancient medical science the head was held to be the source of all these: all nourishment comes through the mouth, the brain thinks things out and makes the decisions on which the whole body acts. Christ performs for creation these functions which the head performs for the body. In earlier letters Paul had written that the Body of Christ which is the Church is made up from many limbs and members, which all have different contributions to make to its wellbeing. Now he develops this image and differentiates Christ as the head of the whole Body as its guide, leader, nourishment and focus.

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

The Prologue to the Fourth Gospel has a special place in Christian theology, and for centuries was recited at the end of the Mass as summing-up the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation by the Word, and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. In the centre comes the Incarnation, which enables and invites those who accept Christ to become children of God. The gospel-story of Mark begins at the baptism of Jesus, and the voice from heaven declaring that he is God's son. Matthew and Luke add their two slightly different versions of the infancy narratives to show that Jesus possessed and manifested these divine qualities right from his birth. The author of the Fourth Gospel goes back beyond this, to meditate on the ultimate part in both creation and its fulfilment of the Word who became flesh. Perhaps the most exultant cry of all is 'we have seen his glory', for glory belongs rightly to God alone. This statement contains the paradox that Christ as a human being made visible this divine glory, and that it was his own glory, witnessed by the followers among whom he lived and moved.

### Collect

Almighty, ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourselves to all peoples by the radiance of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Fr David writes:

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*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021*

### THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Wednesday is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord** and there will be a Mass in both churches, to enable, hopefully, as many as possible to be at the altar on this Holyday of Obligation:

9.30am Mass at Holy Trinity

6.30pm Mass at St Laurence (PLEASE NOTE TIME)

Also this week:

Tuesday 9.30am Mass at Holy Trinity

Thursday 7.00 pm Zoom Mass

Friday 12noon Mass at St Laurence

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Until Covid restrictions are lifted there will be no set times for confession; please contact Father David for socially distanced appointments.

The January intercessions list is now available – please take a copy after Mass.

Father David's rest day this week is Monday.

*Next Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January*

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Christmastide ends)**

**9.30am THE PARISH MASS** *at St Laurence*

### **Please remember in your prayers:-**

Those who are sick, especially: Peter Wrathall, twins Cosima and Tiadora and their mother Leigh Anne, Syd Warren, Maria Perkins, Dawn, Grace Fouracres, Jack Grocock, Emma Gallagah, Dexter, Vanessa Jackson.

Those who have recently died : Bob Hulls and also those whose anniversary of death falls this week : William James Foulkes, Margaret Cromack, Thirzah Complin, Marjorie Farrow, Dorothy Roberts, Dorothy Weaver, Irene Clarke, Daisy Beatrice Collier, Robert Henry Smith and John George Gott.

### **Contacts at St. Laurence**

**Parish Priest Fr David Lawrence-March**, Tel. 0115 946 4060

Email. *fatherdlm@icloud.com* (Fr David's preferred means of contact is email if possible).

#### **Churchwardens**

Mr Simon Dew: 07970 397711

Mrs Jennifer Hulls 07971 478765

**Parish Safeguarding Link** Mrs Nicky Bailey 07809 680034, Email:

*nickybailey1938@gmail.co*

#### **Hall Bookings:**

Temporary Contact: Chris Ellis 07984 973983

#### **Website**

For more about St Laurence, visit our website:-[www.st-laurence.net](http://www.st-laurence.net)

Contact us at: [simondew.46@gmail.com](mailto:simondew.46@gmail.com)

