

# GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

January 17th 2021

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

## *Answering God's Call*

*Christ calls each of us by name. In this celebration we listen to what he has to say to us, prepared to use in his service the body that he has given us for the glory of God. We say with him 'This is my body which is given for you'*

Mass

First Reading: *1 Samuel 3: 3-10*

Responsorial Psalm 39: 2-4, 7-10, 19

Here I am, Lord!

I come to do your will.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20*

Gospel: *John 1: 35-42*

Hymns All LON ( Blue ):

Introit: 234 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind  
Gradual: 466 Loving shepherd of thy sheep  
Offertory 462 Love is his word, love is his way  
Communion 286 God forgave my sin in Jesus' name  
Recessional: 274 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising  
(All can be heard sung on Youtube. )

## Notices:

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### **A Message from Fr Michael**

Dear friends at St Laurence,

We write to thank you for the most generous cheque reflecting thanks from you and friends at Holy Trinity for ministry to you. All I can say is that it's been a joy to be with you. From time to time you have received my ministry and welcomed me amongst you. Of course we have been able to enjoy times of Pilgrimage at both home and abroad with members of St Laurence and Holy Trinity.

Pam also thanks you for the beautiful flowers that were also sent.

It is a very strange time at present with lockdown and shielding. We look forward to the future.

Please be assured of our prayers and love. **Fr Michael and Pam**

### **About today's Mass readings: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

#### **Fr David writes:**

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**First Reading: *1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19***

The call of the child Samuel into the Lord's service is always a favourite. It is easy to imagine the boy lying, dozing on his mat in the half-darkness, hearing the voice murmur 'Shmuel' (the Hebrew form of his name). Was it really a call, was it the old priest Eli calling, or just the wind in the pillars of the Temple? He has all the directness, willingness and simplicity of a child, the sort of qualities needed for the Kingdom of God. Often, however, in the same way we do not know whether an 'inspiration' is really the call of God or our own imagination. Prayer and advice help in discerning the genuine call from a madcap scheme. Others may know us better than we know ourselves, and God's call is always fitted to our true nature.

**Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20***

The Christian community at Corinth was a troublesome crowd, always trying to push the boundaries (not unlike some people's behaviour during the lockdown ...), and seems to have lacked any resident human guide. They relied on the Holy Spirit, backed up by several letters from St Paul. Here we have Paul's most forceful reason for sexual self-control: as Christ lives in us by his Spirit, all our bodily members are Christ's, and Christ is involved in every

movement of them. This should give us a wonderful reverence for our bodies, knowing that we implicate Christ in all our body's activities. The most powerful expression comes in verse 16 (omitted in the public reading, perhaps as being too pointed) 'anyone who attaches himself to a prostitute is one body with her, since the two become one flesh'. This drives the lesson home: Christ, too, becomes involved with the prostitute. For Christians Christ is involved in a wonderful way in the sexual act, in a marital situation giving a couple the inestimable privilege and joy of sharing in God's work of creation. But Christ is also abused by a Christian's, or, indeed, anyone's abuse of sex, above all when it involves the use of another person as a means for gratification.

**Gospel: John 1: 35-42-18**

This story of the call of the first disciples takes place in the Jordan valley, where John the Baptist was baptising. The first two to be called are disciples of John, so had joined his group of those waiting for the Messiah. They were ready when John pointed him out. It is striking that Jesus first calls them to be with him, and first of all they remain with him for a time. First in our call to follow Christ comes prayer and getting to know Christ, before we can actively work for Christ and bring others to share his joy. Only after this repose with Jesus do they sprint off in their enthusiasm and bring others to join in the benefits they have received from the tranquillity of keeping company with Jesus. And so it should be with us.

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

**THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**LOCKDOWN MARK 3 ...**

Thankfully worship hasn't been suspended during the current Lockdown, but we **MUST** adhere to the strict guidelines. You should only mix with others from your household in church, and there should be no social activity either before or after Mass. You should leave church quickly and orderly, avoiding any unnecessary interaction with anyone. Should you need to speak to Father David, for example,

please stand aside, socially distanced from others. These instructions may appear difficult but, unlike the previous lockdowns, we are allowed to gather for worship, although many people, understandably, will decide to stay away. Sunday Masses will continue in both churches, as will the usual pattern for weekdays, save for the Mass on Tuesday mornings, which is suspended until the lifting of restrictions. For a trial period, beginning this week, there will be a Mass at St Laurence on Monday evenings at 6.30pm.

**Hand sanitiser** is provided in both churches, but do feel free to use your own if you would prefer.

**This week**

Monday 6.30pm Mass at St Laurence

Wednesday 10.00am Mass at St Laurence

Thursday 7.00pm 'Zoom' Mass with Father Giles

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 annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins tomorrow. Please use the days from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> to pray in particular for the unity of the Church, according to the Prayer of Christ 'that all might be one'.

**The late Jack Grocock**

Jack's Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 2.45pm at St Laurence. Of course, attendance will be restricted to the statutory number of family.

Father David's rest day this week is Tuesday.

*Next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January*

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**11.15am THE PARISH MASS** at Holy Trinity

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

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

Those who have recently died : Jack Grocock, and also those whose anniversary of death falls this week : Frederick Hallam, Arthur Mahoney, Florence Marshall Charles Wilf, Henry Rippingate, Hilda Smith, John Henry Worthington, Sylvia Mitchell, William Francis Brentnall, William Henry Blyth Martin (p), Gladys Mary Brinkworth, Dora Alice Hutchinson.

## **Contacts at St. Laurence**

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

Email. [fatherdlm@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto: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)

## **Two Saints for this week:**

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### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Blessed Cyprian Michael Tansi (1903-1964)**

Father Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi was born in Nigeria in 1903. He was brought up by the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) and trained as a teacher and a catechist. Later he decided to join the seminary and in 1937 he was ordained a priest. In 1950 he left his Diocese in order to come to England where he joined the Cistercian Abbey of Mount St Bernard, near Nottingham.

He had been singled out as the ideal candidate to be trained in England and then return to establish a Trappist Monastery in the Diocese of Onitsha in Nigeria. Father Tansi lived the monastic life with great faith and humility. Absorbed in prayer, he was a living example of patience and charity. Early in 1964 he was diagnosed with aortic aneurysm and died two weeks later on this day in 1964, and was beatified by Pope St John Paul II on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1998.

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

#### **St Marianne Cope (1838-1918)**

Maria Anna Barbara Koob was born in Heppenheim, in the Grand Duchy of Hesse, which is now part of Germany, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1838. Her family emigrated the following year to Utica, in New York State. The family's surname was anglicized to Cope. In 1862 she entered the Sisters of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York, after having postponed her entrance nine years in order to work to support her family. She was instrumental in the founding of several schools and hospitals for immigrants. In 1883 she led a group of sisters to the Hawaiian Islands to care for the poor, especially those suffering from leprosy. In 1888 she went to Kalaupapa, Moloka'i, where she set up a home for girls with leprosy. After the death of St Damien de Veuster she also took over the home he built for boys. She died on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. She was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and canonized by him on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012.