

GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

January 10th 2021

The Baptism of the Lord (Year B)

At Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan, the Father anointed his beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit and with power, to bring healing and peace to all the nations.

Mass

First Reading: *Isaiah 55: 1-11*

Responsorial Psalm: *Isaiah 12: 2-6*

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Second Reading: *1 John 5: 1-9*

Gospel: *Mark 1: 7-11*

Hymns All NEH (Green):

Introit: 56 Songs of thankfulness and praise
Gradual: 58 The sinless one to Jordan came
Offertory 338 At the name of Jesus
Communion 308 Thee we adore, O hidden saviour, thee
Recessional: 420 O Jesus, I have promised
(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)

Fr David writes:

EBBSFLEET IN EREWASH

For the Parish Newsletters Sunday 10th January 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Christmastide ends

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, although there may be a move to a 'zoom' Mass on Tuesday mornings – Father David and the wardens at St Laurence will monitor and reassess the situation after this week.

Weekdays this week

Tuesday 9.30am Mass at Holy Trinity

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 late Bob Hulls

Bob's Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday at 2.00pm at St Laurence. Because of covid, attendance will be by invitation only. Jennifer wishes to thank everyone who has sent cards, letters and flowers in sympathy to her and the family. No flowers please, donations in Bob's memory to the Canaan Trust. Please remember Jennifer and her family in your prayers, particularly on Tuesday.

Father David's rest day this week is Thursday

Next Sunday 17th January

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.30am THE PARISH MASS at *St Laurence*

11.15am THE PARISH MASS at *Holy Trinity*

About today's Mass readings: The Baptism of the Lord Fr David writes:

First Reading: *Isaiah 55: 1-11*

The reading from the Isaiahan prophecies is positively bursting with ideas. To begin with, Isaiah proclaims the invitation to the rich messianic banquet. Perhaps we have had enough of rich food for the moment in our post-festive torpor, but the picture of the Israelite relaxingly quaffing wine under his fig-tree was an important part of the expectation of the kingdom of God. Perhaps the social aspects of the banquet are more important in Jesus' frequent teaching about the banquet, and especially the warmth of the host and the company of the saints. But at Cana he does change the water into huge quantities of wine. Secondly, there is the aspect of witness. The son of David is a witness calling to God the nations that do not know him, or the word of God which issues from the mouth of God and does not return without accomplishing his task. By our baptism we too are constituted witnesses for the world, accomplices of the word of God. But witnesses to what? The last part of the reading centres on the forgiveness of God, for God is nothing if not a forgiving God, and the covenant nothing if not a covenant of forgiveness. The baptism of John, which Jesus himself underwent, is an invitation to change our ways and return to God.

Second Reading : *1 John 5: 1-9*

This reading emphasizes the mutual love of Father and Son, so fully expressed in the Baptism – 'with you I am well pleased'. By our own baptism we share in this love. But, as with all love, there is a price to pay, not only in obedience to his commandments. It is a victory, a love which conquers the world. How it conquers the world is hinted by the mysterious reference that Jesus 'came by water and blood'. With the writer of 1 John, as with the Fourth Gospel, there are always multiple layers of meaning. Does it mean the water and blood which flowed from his side as he was pierced by the soldier's spear on the Cross? Or is it – and this understanding lies deep in the tradition of the Church – that the water symbolizes baptism and the blood symbolizes the Eucharist? The sacraments flow from the side of Christ as he breathes forth, or gives over, his Spirit to the community consisting of his Mother and the Beloved Disciple.

Gospel: *Mark 1: 7-11*

What can Jesus have experienced? It is described as 'the heavens torn apart', a Voice, and the Spirit coming down like a dove. It must have given him the experience of being treasured, being embraced by the Person whom he called 'Father'. But he is given a task too, for the Spirit of God is an empowering Spirit. It must have felt like a new impetus, a thrill of challenge, a surge of energy and opportunity, an exciting new task. In this new Spirit he went out to bring the good news of peace, gradually gathering his community and spreading God's healing love by his personality, his teaching and his healing. This is the power which baptism has given to us also, to bring God's healing and God's love, to build a community of love which reflects and extends God's own love. Jesus must have been daunted by the task. He knew it would test him to the limit of his endurance, but he knew he had received the Power of God, and put his trust in his Father. He never promised us at baptism that it would be easy to live as Christians, but he did promise us that he would give us the surge of strength and power which is the Holy Spirit.

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan and as the Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you, 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:

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 Gallagah, Dexter, Vanessa Jackson.

Those who have recently died : Bob Hulls, Jack Grocock, and also those whose anniversary of death falls this week : Doris Hadfield, Michael Fouracres, Emma Maria Hollingsworth, Thomas William Knox, Margaret Martin

Contacts at St. Laurence

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Churchwardens

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Website

For more about St Laurence, visit our website:-www.st-laurence.net

Contact us at: simondew.46@gmail.com

Two Saints for this week:

Tuesday 12th January

St Aelred of Rievaulx (1110-1167)

St Aelred was born in Hexham in around 1109. His family was well connected and at an early age he was sent into the service of King David of Scotland. There he rose to the position of Master of the Royal Household. In time he became attracted to the religious life, but he was also much attached to the life he lived at court and to King David himself. It took a considerable personal struggle for him at the age of 24 to give up his secular pursuits and to enter the newly founded Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire in 1133. At 34 he moved from there and took charge of a new foundation in Lincolnshire. But within four years he had returned to Rievaulx as Abbot where he remained for the rest of his life. He died on this day in 1167. Aelred is remembered both for his energy and for his gentleness. His writings and his sermons were characterised by a deep love of the Scriptures and by a very personal love of Christ 'as friend and Saviour'. He was sensitive and understanding in his dealings with his fellow monks and under his direction the monastery at Rievaulx grew to an extraordinary size. He did not enjoy robust health and the last ten years of his life were marked by a long and painful illness. His position as Abbot required him to travel on visitation to monasteries not only in England and Scotland but even in France, and the

physical suffering and exhaustion which this incurred seems to have been considerable. A contemporary account of the last year of his life describes him as being left helpless on his bed unable to speak or move for an hour after celebrating his morning Mass. Aelred was a singularly attractive figure, a man of great spiritual power but also of warm friendliness and humanity. He has been called the St Bernard of the North. His abiding memorial is his book, ***On Spiritual Friendship***.

Saturday 16th January

St Joseph Vaz (1651-1711)

St Joseph Vaz was a missionary born on 21st April 1651 in Goa, India. He died on 16th January 1711 in Kandy in present day Sri Lanka. He was an Oratorian missionary priest. He arrived in Sri Lanka (formerly known as Ceylon) during the Dutch occupation. The Dutch had expelled the Portuguese who had introduced Catholicism to Sri Lanka. The Dutch then went on to impose Calvinism as the official religion in Sri Lanka. Father Vaz travelled throughout Sri Lanka, bringing the Eucharist and the other Sacraments to clandestine groups of Catholic Christians. He would sometimes disguise himself as a beggar in order to facilitate his mission. Later, he founded a shelter in the Kingdom of Kandy where he intensified his missionary work of ministering to both the minority Tamil and Sinhalese ethnic groups. By the time of his death, he had managed to rebuild the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka. He was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II on 21st January 1995, in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, and canonized there by Pope Francis on 14th January 2015

