

GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

February 28th 2021

Second Sunday in Lent (Year B)

God's Gift to Us: His Son

Abraham was prepared to give God his only son, Isaac, in sacrifice. God would do no less. 'This is my Son, the Beloved,' he says to us. 'Listen to him.'

Mass

First Reading: *Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*

Responsorial Psalm 115: 10, 15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Second Reading: *Romans 8: 31b-34*

Gospel: *Mark 9: 2-10*

Hymns NEH (Green) :

Introit: 234 Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Gradual: 178 'Tis good, Lord, to be here!
Offertory 72 My faith looks up to thee
Communion 73 My God, I love thee; not because
Recessional: 76 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said
(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)

About today's Mass readings: Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading: *Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*

Every parent must be moved by this terrible and touching story, from which we hear 'edited highlights' today. How could a parent do such a thing? And the boy was Abraham's last hope for the survival of his family, granted to him to fulfil God's promise. The narrative becomes slower as they approach the point. Note how Isaac is allowed to carry the wood, but Abraham carefully carries anything on which the child might hurt himself, the fire and the knife. One can imagine the excitable young boy trotting along beside his father, bouncing questions at him, and his father's monosyllabic answers as he nears the moment he dreads. Yet he trusted in God right up to the brink of disaster, somehow confident that God would rescue him from this terrible deed. As St Paul stresses, it was not anything Abraham did that justified him, not his obedient action, but his total trust in God. Can I claim such total trust in God's love? The tradition of the Church (which, of course, was not how the Jews saw or see the account) sees in this tragic story a 'prequel' of God's offering his only, beloved Son for the salvation of the human race, a mysterious preparation for that supreme offering which we celebrate at Easter. The goal of this season of Lent is kept before our eyes as we advance along the way.

Second Reading: *Romans 8: 31b-34*

St Paul reflects on God's love: if God loved us sufficiently to deliver up his son for us, there is no limit to his love. Paul begins the letter by exposing the human race as mired in sin. Of this the sin, the disobedience of Adam – and 'Adam' means 'man' in Hebrew – is the symbol. Paul then shows that the perfect, loving obedience of the Second Adam, Christ, to his Father unravels our disobedience, and set us steady again in God's love. The Cross is the supreme act of love: Jesus loves his Father even to death. God accepts this death out of love for the human race. Nothing, continues Paul, can separate us from this love, neither life nor death nor human nor superhuman powers. As an example of this love, he then shows how even the Jews who rejected Jesus remain God's beloved people. In the end they too will be saved by that love. It's a short but difficult passage and we must guard against the rather perverse idea of 'substitutionary atonement' or of subordinationism, remembering that this letter was written at a time when the fledgling Christian community was still trying to begin to understand what it believed about the person of Christ.

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

As the time of the Passion approaches the foreboding of the disciples grows. Jesus sustains them by this vivid experience of his more than natural nature. On the holy mountain of revelation they see him transformed. As recorded in the three Synoptic Gospels. it was a real visual experience, described in symbols familiar from the First Testament: brilliant white clothes and so on. Moses and Elijah are seen there because they also had experienced the vision of God on the holy mountain. For Moses this was at the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, for Elijah in the cave of Mount Horeb. The disciples were frightened, confused and overcome at the awesome experience, and yet comforted in a way which made Peter want to prolong it. This will later be the rare reaction of Christian mystics, a reassuring terror and a frightening homeliness, the awareness of a presence which is at the same time awesome and comforting, an experience which cannot fully be put into words. The Voice from Heaven is an echo of the Voice at Jesus' Baptism. There, however, it was addressed to Jesus, whereas here it is spoken to the disciples, proclaiming Jesus as authorized teacher, the extension of that same divine voice.

Collect:

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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.

Notices:

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2021

The Annual weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham from Holy Trinity has been postponed from its original date in April, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

A revised date has been agreed with the Shrine and the Pilgrimage is now programmed for 18th, 19th & 20th June 2021. This is of course subject to any restrictions applicable at that time.

There are a few places available and anyone who may be interested and requires further details please contact David Hudson on 07470 503680.

Access to Zoom Services by telephone -no internet required.

For anyone without an internet connection, you only need a telephone to listen in to any of our Zoom services, and even say Hello if you wish. This can be achieved

by dialling in on any of these numbers: 0203 051 2874 0203 481 5237
0203 481 5240 0131 460 1196, entering the 11-digit then ignoring the request for a participant code but simply pressing the # sign again.

Father David writes:

9.30am THE PARISH MASS at St Laurence

11.15am THE PARISH MASS at Holy Trinity

LOCKDOWN MARK 3 ... A REMINDER

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.

Please also remember ... that the communion greeting 'The Body of Christ', is said only once, and we all respond together, **Amen**. The instructions are that Holy Communion is then given in silence. **Please do not say anything when the priest gives you the host.**

Hand sanitiser is provided in both churches, but **do feel free to use your own if you would prefer**. At St Laurence there is an automated dispenser for use on entry, but please sign the Track and Trace sheet before use.

This week

Monday 6.30pm Mass at St Laurence

Tuesday 9.30am 'Zoom' Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.00am Mass at St Laurence

Thursday 7.00pm 'Zoom' Mass with Father Giles

Friday 12noon Mass at St Laurence

Tuesdays 9.30 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

The Zoom link is ...

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77292790737>

Meeting ID: 772 9279 0737

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 March Daily Intention list is now available. Please take a copy after Mass today.

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.

Please also remember ... that the communion greeting 'The Body of Christ', is said only once, and we all respond together, **Amen**. The instructions are that Holy Communion is then given in silence. **Please do not say anything when the priest gives you the host.**

Hand sanitiser is provided in both churches, but **do feel free to use your own if you would prefer**. At St Laurence there is an automated dispenser for use on entry, but please sign the Track and Trace sheet before use.

This week

Monday 6.30pm Mass at St Laurence

Tuesday 9.30am 'Zoom' Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10.00am Mass at St Laurence

Thursday 7.00pm 'Zoom' Mass with Father Giles

Friday 12noon Mass at St Laurence

Tuesdays 9.30 am Morning Prayer on Zoom

The Zoom link is ...

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77292790737> Meeting ID: 772 9279 0737

Father David's rest day this week is Thursday.

Next Sunday 7th March

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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: Kath Green, Jean & Alan Smith, Peter Wrathall, twins Cosima and Tiadora and their mother Leigh Anne, Syd Warren, Maria Perkins, Grace Fouracres, Emma Gallagah, Dexter, Vanessa Jackson, Jean Jarvis.

Those who have recently died : Dawn and also those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Phyllis Smith, Alice Ellicock, Elsie Wragg, David Butle, Sarah Rawson, Claude Beswick, Constance Best, Eileen Twomey, Joan Cross.

Contacts at St. Laurence

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

Temporary Contact: Chris Ellis 07984 973983

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:

Website

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

Contact us at: simondew.46@gmail.com

A Spiritual Reading for the Second Sunday in Lent:

From a Sermon of Saint Leo the Great, pope

The Law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow.

The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift: the members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendour of his coming: *Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: *I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us.* In another place he says: *You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in **A spiritual reading for the first Sunday in Lent**