

GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

April 11th 2021

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Faith: Our Victory over the World

We come together today like that first group of believers united heart and soul, and celebrating our victory over the world through our faith in Christ, the Son of God.

Mass

First Reading: *Acts 4: 32-35*

Responsorial Psalm 117: 2-4, 15-18, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

Second Reading: *1 John 5: 1-6*

Gospel: *John 20: 19-31*

Hymns NEH (Green) :

Introit: 105 Christ the Lord is risen again.
Gradual: 124 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem
Offertory 173 Blessed Thomas, doubt no longer
Communion 271 Alleluya, sing to Jesus
Recessional: 103 Alleluya! Alleluya! Hearts to heaven
(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)

About today's Mass readings: Easter 2 Divine Mercy

Sunday

First Reading: *Acts 4: 32-35*

At Sunday Mass in Eastertide the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles. Today's reading is about one of the earliest Christian communities. It stresses the unity of the community, and the mutual caring to ensure that no one is in want. This care of those in need, and particularly in financial matters, remains a strong challenge to us today. The care for the needy remains a strong emphasis throughout the Bible, from the earliest part of the Law-codes of Israel till the Letter of James and beyond. As man and woman are made in the image of God, we are to care for one another and for those in need as God cares for us; this is part of the human obligation to foster life and to care for creation. The gospel according to Luke especially stresses the dangers of wealth and the need to use wealth responsibly and generously. This is followed through in the Acts of the Apostles as part of being 'one in heart and mind'. The other feature of their life together is the bold proclamation of the Resurrection of the Lord, as relevant now as it was then.

Second Reading: *1 John 5: 1-6*

This passage from the first letter attributed to the same writer as the Fourth Gospel (and, of the three, the only one probably by him) centres on two overarching aspects of Christian love, which are vital for any genuine manifestation of that love. The first aspect is that this love, which conquers the world, is built on faith in Jesus as Son of God. 'The world' here stands for all the evil and godless attitudes standing in opposition to Christian values. By raising Jesus from the dead God the Father has shown the vanity of these attitudes, and has made the victory of Christian love over them sure. These are the true values which in the end will prevail. The second aspect is that by Christian love we are raised to be sons of God, co-heirs with Christ and able to cry 'Abba, Father' truly to God. To the Hebrew mind to be a 'son of' is wider than mere physical or gender-specific generation. It involves respect, devotion, obedience, keeping an eye on, careful conformity in desire, ability and behaviour. It is much like being 'in the image of', but closer, stronger, more heartfelt and more intimate.

Gospel: *John 20: 19-31*

This passage from the Fourth Gospel has all the more significance because it brings the Gospel to a close. The story of the breakfast-party with the Risen Christ on the shore of the Lake of Galilee is a sort of appendix. The storyline of the main Gospel ends with Thomas blurting out his great confession of faith: 'My Lord and my God'. The Gospel therefore ends, as it began with the only two unmistakable declarations in the New Testament of the divinity of Jesus. 'The

Word was God' and 'My Lord and my God' bracket the Gospel, showing the purpose and angle of the whole, to show that Jesus is God. It complements the other Gospels: they show a man who is also God, whereas this Gospel shows God who is also man. It is with the divine authority that Jesus confers on his Church the divine power to forgive. Real forgiveness is indeed Godlike. It is not simply 'forgive-and-forget', but forgiveness in the knowledge that a hurt has occurred. Just as a bone, broken and merged together again, can be stronger than it was before it was broken, so forgiveness can create a real link of love on both sides, a treasured secret of divine graciousness between forgiver and forgiven.

Collect:

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the faith you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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:

EASTER 2 . DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

9.30am THE PARISH MASS at St Laurence

11.15am THE PARISH MASS at Holy Trinity

SOCIAL DISTANCING ... A REMINDER

Please remember that we **MUST** adhere to the 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. **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, unless you 'check-in' with the NHS Track and Trace app, available in both churches. **Although we are now in the first stage of the easing of the Lockdown these regulations still apply.**

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.**

This Week in our parishes

Monday 6.30pm Mass *at St Laurence* Standing Committee follows

Tuesday 9.30am Mass *at Holy Trinity* Standing Committee follows

Wednesday 10.00am Mass *at St Laurence*

Thursday 7.00pm Mass *at Holy Trinity*

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.

Father David's rest day this week is Thursday.

Next Sunday 18th April **EASTER 3**

9.30am THE PARISH MASS at St Laurence

11.15am THE PARISH MASS at Holy Trinity

A spiritual reading for Divine Mercy Sunday:

From a sermon by St Augustine of Hippo

A new creation in Christ

I speak to you who have just been reborn in baptism, my little children in Christ, you who are the new offspring of the Church, gift of the Father, proof of Mother Church's fruitfulness. All of you who stand fast in the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of our ministry and fruit of our toil, my joy and my crown. It is the words of the Apostle that I address to you: *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh and its desires*, so that you may be clothed with the life of him whom you have put on in this sacrament. *You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Such is the power of this sacrament: it is a sacrament of new life which begins here and now with the forgiveness of all past sins, and will be brought to

completion in the resurrection of the dead. *You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life.*

You are walking now by faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope.

This is the octave day of your new birth. Today is fulfilled in you the sign of faith that was prefigured in the Old Testament by the circumcision of the flesh on the eighth day after birth. When the Lord rose from the dead, he put off the mortality of the flesh; his risen body was still the same body, but it was no longer subject to death. By his resurrection he consecrated Sunday, or the Lord's day. Though the third after his passion, this day is the eighth after the Sabbath, and thus also the first day of the week.

And so your own hope of resurrection, though not yet realised, is sure and certain, because you have received the sacrament or sign of this reality, and have been given the pledge of the Spirit. *If, then, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your hearts on heavenly things, not the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*

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 Gallagher, Dexter, Vanessa Jackson, Jean Jarvis, Keith Hann, Ben, Jemima, Lisa and Kes Grant priest with cancer.

Those who have recently died : Lisa, Keith Brocks, and also those whose anniversary of death falls this week. Derek Shattower, Charlotte Battison, Betty Parker, Josephine de la Cruz, Gertrude Tye, Elona Rampton, Derek Tuberfield, Ethel Beswick, Francis Jackson, William Richard Pressland, Margaret Parker, Sean Large.

Contacts at St. Laurence

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Churchwardens

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Website

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