

# GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

**April 18th 2021**

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

### ***Our Advocate with the Father***

***We celebrate with the living Christ, our advocate with the Father, in whose name repentance for the forgiveness of sins is preached to all the world..***

**Mass**

**First Reading: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19**

**Responsorial Psalm: 4: 2, 4, 7, 9**

**Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord**

**Second Reading: 1 John 2: 1-5**

**Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48**

**Hymns NEH (Green) :**

**Introit: 117 The day of resurrection**  
**Gradual: 119 The strife is o'er, the battle done**  
**Offertory 116 O praise our great and glorious Lord**  
**Communion 304 Once, only once, and once for all**  
**Recessional: 113 Love's redeeming work is done**  
**(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)**

**About today's Mass readings: Easter 3**

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### **First Reading: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19**

At Sunday Mass in Eastertide the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles. Today's reading is the final section of St Peter's speech to the people of Jerusalem after Pentecost, when he is explaining to the crowds the significance of the first miracle worked by the apostles in the power of the Spirit. Like all the speeches in Acts, it is not a word-for-word, witness-reported report, but is a sample of Peter's preaching. He lays the blame for Jesus' rejection squarely on them, but shows that it was just as scripture had foretold. All of the speeches end with an invitation to repent. This does not mean simply to get all weepy about past sins, 'how dreadful and wicked I have been'. It means that the listeners, and we, must change our ways, adopt God's and the Risen Christ's system of values. To convert means one was going in one direction; now one turns round to go in another. Then the way one looks at the world becomes different. One sees things from a different angle, God's and Christ's angle. This sort of conversion does not so much look at the past with regret as look at the future with confidence. It is the new determination that allows God to wipe out our sins.

### **Second Reading: 1 John 2: 1-5**

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) is about blotting out former failures. Jesus Christ is our Advocate with the Father, 'standing at the right hand of the Father', because he takes our sins away. How does he do this? By his act of obedience on the Cross Jesus wipes out the disobedience of Adam, that is, of all humanity. Adam (which means 'man') is the figure of all humanity and not, of course, a 'real' person, and Adam's sin is the symbol of all human sin, a sort of 'prequel' of all sin, an act of turning away from God, of independence and disobedience. On the Cross Jesus the Son was perfectly united to the Father, in an act of utter obedience in love, 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

responds, with a renewal of love for all humanity. For us, too, it is true that if we know God, if we have any appreciation of God and any personal bond to God, we cannot but obey him. God's commands are not arbitrary, but are the way of keeping close to God. By the command of love God reveals himself and invites us to be like him.

**Gospel: *Luke 24: 35-48***

In the preceding part of Chapter 24 the two disciples had met Jesus on their way to Emmaus. There Jesus had used the Eucharistic meal to reveal himself to them, for the Eucharist is always an occasion for us to get to know the Risen Christ better. Now he meets the whole group of disciples in their refuge, the Upper Room. The stress is on their meeting with a real person, not a disembodied ghost or phantom appearance. That is why he eats a piece of fish. The important lesson of this is that, in our resurrection to true life, it is the whole person that is raised, not just the soul. Our bodies will be so real that we will be able to eat. Christian teaching is that a person is an animated body. We work out our salvation with physical bodies, and all will be raised to life. It is not just a matter of thoughts and intentions. The whole body is baptised into Christ and is the instrument of our salvation. The body will be changed, and St Paul tells us that it is stupid to ask what sort of body we will have in the resurrection, but I shall be raised as a whole person, but a wholeness that is shown to reflect the holiness that will be ours through our sharing in Christ's new life.

**Collect:**

May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. 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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**EASTER 3**

**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*

Tuesday 9.30am Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Wednesday **St Anselm** 10.00am Mass *at St Laurence*

Thursday 7.00pm Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Friday **St George** 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 25<sup>th</sup> April*

### **EASTER 4 . Good Shepherd Sunday**

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

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

#### ***From Father David, re requests for prayers ...***

The lists of the sick and those for whom we have been asked to pray include many names, some of which may no longer be relevant. Please look at the list for each parish and let me know **if prayers are still required**. If I haven't heard with regard to a name it will be removed from the list at the end of May. **And don't forget to let me know of any new names that should be included**. Too often someone will assume that someone else has told me if a person is ill or in need of prayers and I don't find out.

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

Those who are sick, especially: Kath Green, Jean & Alan Smith, Peter Wrathall, 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. Mollie Elizabeth Phillips, Marjorie Rigby, Mabel Raynor, Harry Matthews, Alma Beswick, Percy Fisher, Robert Holton.



## Three Saints for this week:

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### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

#### **St Anselm of Canterbury (1069-1109)**

St Anselm was born in Aosta, in northern Italy, and became a monk of Bec in Normandy, where he taught theology and devoted himself to the spiritual life. After some years as abbot, he succeeded his master Lanfranc as Archbishop of Canterbury. His bitter disputes with the kings of England over the independence of the Church resulted in his twice being exiled. He died at Canterbury on this day in 1109. He is remembered for his theological learning and writings, and for organising and reforming church life in England. One of the most astute minds of the Middle Ages or, indeed, of any age, he is credited with one of the first explanations of what would become known as the Ontological Argument for the Existence of God, as set forth in his great philosophical treatise, the Proslogion, which includes his great dictum, 'I believe in order that I may understand' – in essence, 'Faith seeking understanding'.

### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

#### **St George (d. 303)**

St George was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) in about 303, during the persecution of the emperor, Diocletian. Like so many saints of that period, the only fact that we can be certain of is his martyrdom. His cult spread quickly through both the East and the West, and the legend of St George and the Dragon only appeared some time afterwards. During the Crusades, George was seen to personify the ideals of Christian chivalry, and he was adopted as the patron saint of several city states and countries, including England and Catalonia. King Richard I placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast day was proclaimed a holiday.

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **St Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1578-1622)**

St Fidelis was born in Sigmaringen in Germany. He joined the Capuchin Friars at the age of 35 and led a harsh Faith to preach orthodox doctrine in

the Grisons (part of Switzerland). He was murdered by a Calvinist mob at Seewis on this day in 1622.

## **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)

life of prayer and vigils. An assiduous preacher, he was ordered by the Congregation for the Propagation of the