

# GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

## ***An Ebbsfleet in Erewash Parish***

**June 6th 2021**

### **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (Year B)**

**The Parish Mass 11.15 am**

**Hymns NEH (Green) :**

**Introit:** 271 Alleluia, sing to Jesus  
**Offertory:** 273 And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
**Communion** 275 Blessed Jesu, Mary's son  
**Post Communion** 307 Sweet sacrament divine  
**(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)**

#### **This Week in our parishes**

Monday 6.30pm Mass *at St Laurence*

Tuesday 9.30am Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Wednesday 10.00am Mass *at St Laurence*

Thursday 7.00pm Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Friday **The Sacred Heart of Jesus** 12noon Mass *at St Laurence*

*Next Sunday 13th June*

**11<sup>TH</sup> 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: Corpus Christi**

### **First Reading: *Exodus 24: 3-8***

The momentous story of the Covenant between God and the Chosen People, the Jews, reaches its climax with the ratification of the Covenant. Before this, a brief selection of laws delineating a primitive, principally pastoral rather than agricultural society has been given. Some concern the treatment of slaves, others disputes or responsibility for accidents, others theft and compensation, others the annual agricultural festivals. Many of the laws are paralleled in other law-codes of the Near East, such as the Codex of Hammurabi, for they lay down behaviour calculated to promote the smooth and equitable running of a society. Finally the people listen to and accept the laws by which they are to live as God's People, and the agreement is given sacred status by sacrifice. These sacrifices are of two kinds, holocausts, that is, beasts offered to the Lord and wholly consumed by fire, and communion-sacrifices. Communion-sacrifices give the comparatively rare pleasure of eating meat. Indeed the normal slaughter of a beast for food is a communion-sacrifice, for it is shared between God and the offerer, certain prescribed portions always being set aside for the Lord. At the same time in this particular instance of the ratification of the Covenant, the blood of the victims plays its part. Blood, signifying the life of the animal, and so sacred to God, the author of life, is sprinkled on altar and people. In this way altar (representing God) and people are joined together in a new God-given life which confirms the Covenant.

### **Second Reading: *Hebrews 9: 11-15***

It is essential to understand the function of blood in Israel's and in our sacramental system. Blood is an obvious symbol of life. Total loss of blood means total loss of life. As blood flows out, so life ebbs away. Therefore, just as life belongs to God, so blood belongs to God. In Israel it is therefore sacred. In recognition that life is the gift of God, blood may not be consumed. Sacrifice in Israel was not appeasing an angry God, by offering the death of an animal instead of my own death. Rather, it was a joyful sharing with God, the sharing of a meal, and the granting of new life. Death releases the blood, which can then be sprinkled over the offerers to symbolize fresh life from God. The Letter to the Hebrews contrasts the old sacrifices and old sharing of blood, 'the blood of goats

and bull calves', with the gift of Christ's blood. How much more is the new life, given by the blood of the divine Son of God.

### **Gospel: Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26**

The original covenant in the First Testament was sealed by a death and by the sharing of the blood between God (signified by the altar) and his people as a sign of new life. Israel broke that covenant by persistently refusing to keep true to the way of life which the covenant enshrined. Now Jesus' new covenant engages us in a new alliance and gives us new life. The story told in this reading is the warranty and guarantee that, each time we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are bound anew into his covenant. The story is told in almost exactly similar terms in each of the first three gospels and in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It must have been learnt and repeated by heart. There is just enough difference to show that Mark and Matthew reflect the tradition of the Hebrew communities, while Paul and Luke reflect the tradition of the Greek-speaking communities. It must have been repeated again and again from the very first years of Christianity. Each time we repeat these words we are entering again into Jesus' covenant. There should be a health warning. The Mass is dangerous: are you ready to commit yourself to the Kingdom, to engage in a new and personal alliance with Christ and to live with his life?

### **Collect:**

O God who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

### **Fr David writes:**

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### **SOCIAL DISTANCING ... A REMINDER**

Please remember that **we must still 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.**

Father David will be on leave Tuesday to Thursday this week.  
Please contact the churchwardens in any emergency.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Until Covid restrictions are lifted there will be no set times for confession; please contact Father David for socially distanced appointments.

### **Gluten Intolerance/Coeliac sufferers**

Ecclesiastically- and medically-approved communion hosts are now available in both churches. Please let a sidesperson/churchwarden know if you would like a gluten-free host. They will generally have been consecrated at an earlier Mass and kept securely in the tabernacle in both churches.

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

Don't forget to let me know of any new names that should be included. Too often someone will assume that another person has told me if a someone is ill or in need of prayers and I don't find out.

### **EBBSFLEET IN EREWASH CALENDAR**

June's Calendar and Daily Intentions is now available - please take a copy after Mass today.

### **Notices:**

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## **Forthcoming events at St Anne's, Derby**

**Choral Evensong and Benediction for Corpus Christi** 6:30pm this evening  
Sunday 6 June.

**Ebbsfleet in Derbyshire Picnic** Sunday 25 July (St Anne's Eve) from 1:00pm in Fr Giles & Jane Orton's Garden, Brun Meadows, Brun Lane, Kirk Langley, DE6 4LU. Bring your own picnic and seating, further refreshments will be available. Hopefully the sun will shine on us and we will have the opportunity to meet socially with friends from the other Ebbsfleet parishes. Games for children (and adults) will be organised, weather permitting.

**Monday 26 July - St Anne's Patronal Festival** - Sung Mass 7:00pm

All our friends from Holy Trinity and St Laurence will be most welcome. **Fr Giles**

## **A spiritual reading for today Corpus Christi**

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***On the feast of Corpus Christi* by Saint Thomas Aquinas**  
**O precious and wonderful banquet!**

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation. He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine. O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an

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abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may be for the benefit of all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament, in

which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his passion. It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion. It was the fulfilment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

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

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***Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June***

**St William of York (d.1154)**

William Fitzherbert was born at the end of the eleventh century into a position of favour and wealth, and was a nephew of the future King Stephen. In his early days he received a good education and when he took holy orders, he became the treasurer of the cathedral church of York. Even if he received this office through patronage, it was generally agreed that he carried it out with wisdom and charity. This was the time of the accession of King Stephen and the civil war with Empress Matilda, with all the disastrous effects that it was bound to have on the government of the Church in England. When William was elected to the archbishopric of York in 1140, his election was challenged by supporters of the Empress because of his family relationship with the King. So began a dispute over his position as archbishop that was to continue almost until the time of William's own death. Some accounts would suggest that he was ill-served by his advisers and suffered the disadvantages of having too many politically minded relatives in positions of authority. But he himself would seem to have lived an exemplary life and was even careless of his own interests. Although Pope Innocent II upheld the appointment, the next Pope Eugenius III suspended him from his duties on the advice of no less than St Bernard of Clairvaux and another candidate was appointed to the See of York. William retired for seven years to Winchester where his uncle was bishop and papal legate and lived there quietly

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without complaint. It was only when his successor at York died and he was again elected to the archbishopric that he travelled to Rome and received the pallium from Pope Anastasius IV. On his return to England, William was mild and conciliatory towards his former enemies and well-liked by his flock. But he had

hardly begun work in the city of York when he was taken ill and died in 1154. He was buried in his cathedral and the solemn translation of his relics took place in 1283.

### ***Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June***

#### **St Ephraem the Deacon (306-373)**

St Ephraem the Deacon was a poet and a theologian. He lived all his life in Mesopotamia, first founding a school and then, when the Persians invaded his native town of Nisibis, moving to Edessa. He preached there, and laid the foundations of its great school of theology. He is famous not only for the beauty of expression of his homilies but also for his hymns, which have spread far beyond his native Syriac church and are in use in East and West alike and many of which are still in use today, some of which can be found in the English Hymnal.

#### **Parish Giving Scheme**

We are asking if you would consider joining the parish giving scheme for your weekly contributions as this is more effective way of ensuring a regular income for St. Laurence. The money donated this way together with gift aid is paid direct to the church on a monthly basis making it better for the treasurer to know where we stand financially. Holy Trinity have used this system for a couple of years and found it extremely useful. If you have any questions please speak to either Andrew or Yvonne for more details.

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

Those who are sick, especially: Kath Green, Jean Smith, Peter Wrathall, Syd Warren, Maria Perkins, Grace Fouracres, Emma Gallagher, Dexter, Vanessa Jackson, Jean Jarvis, Keith Hann, Ben, Jemima, and Kes Grant priest with cancer.

Those who have recently died, especially Michael Perkins. and also those whose anniversary of death fall this week: Alice Mary Skinner, Alan Penny, Peter Walker, Thomas Beedham Charlesworth (p), Lavinia Rachel Smith, Marjorie Constance Rippingale, Ethel Mary Matthews, Timothy Fraser, Gertrude May Plinston, Kevin Bell, Ernest White, Reg Jackson.

#### **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:** 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)

#### **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).

