

# GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

***An Ebbsfleet in Erewash Parish***

**July 18th 2021**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

St Laurence PCC meet briefly after Mass

**The Parish Mass 9.30 am**

**Hymns NEH (Green) :**

**Introit: 234 Christ whose glory fills the skies**  
**Offertory: 457 The King of love my Shepherd is**  
**Communion 314 With solemn faith we offer up**  
**Post Communion 384 Jesu, my Lord, my God, my All**  
**(All can be heard sung on Youtube.)**

**This Week in our churches**

Monday 6.30pm Mass at *St Laurence*

Tuesday 9.30am Mass at *Holy Trinity*

Wednesday 10.00am Mass at *St Laurence*

Thursday **St Mary Magdalene** 7.00pm Mass at *Holy Trinity*

Friday **St Bridget of Sweden** 12noon Mass at *St Laurence*

*Next Sunday 25th July*

**THE SEVENTEENTH 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: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**First Reading: *Jeremiah 23: 1-6***

This reading is quite unlike so many passages in Jeremiah, when he was obliged to prophesy doom and disaster for Israel. As well doom for the current shepherds of the people, it foretells a time when the Lord himself will shepherd his people through his own shepherd, a king in the line of David. The promise shimmers between God himself as the shepherd and his representative being the shepherd. The exile in Babylon must still intervene, but it will give way to the reign of 'The-Lord-is-our-Saving-Justice'. This name is roughly equivalent to the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus, for the kingship of God is a kingship of God's justice and salvation. God's 'justice' is not like human justice, which consists in observance of and obedience to the law, whether it be the Jewish Law or civil law. God's justice consists in fidelity to his promises, the promises made originally to Abraham, and repeated to Moses and David, the repeatedly renewed covenant, the promise of patronage and protection, if only they will put their trust in the Lord. This is what makes it a saving justice, the hope of Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, as the early church came to believe.

**Second Reading: *Ephesians 2: 13-18***

Most theologians and biblical scholars now think that St Paul's letter to the Ephesians was written not by Paul himself, but by a follower steeped in Paul's thought. One of its major themes celebrates the unity of the Church, returning again and again to this subject. In this passage the 'you that used to be so far off' denotes the gentiles, and the 'us' the Jews. The two groups of Christians, sprung from Jews and Gentiles, which formerly were so much at loggerheads, are united by the blood of Christ and the single Spirit to form the single New Man which is Christ's Body, the Church. This particular division between believers is no longer the prime worry in our problem of disunity, for the scandal of disunity within Christendom becomes more acute as the proportion of Christians in the world population shrinks. The uniting of these two groups, however, brings to mind that Christ won salvation for all the world. In some mysterious way all who are saved are saved by Christ, even if they are not explicitly aware of this. The great Twentieth Century Jesuit theologian, Karl Rahner, called such people 'anonymous (or hidden) Christians'. One wonders whether believers who seek the truth in Judaism

and Islam or any of the major religions would be happy to be so described ... Is it enough that they should profess Christ's values and be aware of our human inadequacy to save ourselves? One would hope so.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 6: 30-34**

At both the beginning and end of this section of the Gospel according to Mark we are reminded that the foremost duty of the disciples is to be with Jesus: 'they were to be with him' (Mark 3:14), whatever else they do. At the beginning the disciples who had been sent out on their mission return to Jesus, and at the end the much larger crowd 'from every town', who had searched for him so determinedly and successfully, are welcomed and pitied by Jesus. Furthermore, he begins to teach them. The final quotation, 'like sheep without a shepherd' is a clear allusion to the Israelites after the death of Moses, who would be like sheep without a shepherd until Joshua is appointed as leader (Numbers 27:17), and more widely to the Lord sending a shepherd to replace the careless and self-indulgent shepherds of Ezekiel 34. As any car-driver on the moors knows so well, sheep without a shepherd are the epitome of helpless bewilderment. This will become even clearer with the feeding of the five thousand in the green pastures beside the restful waters of the Lake of Galilee (compare Psalm 22 – today's responsorial psalm, frequently mistakenly numbered as Psalm 23). Today's Gospel passage therefore serves as part of the discovery of who Jesus is: his wonderful actions and his teaching have led the crowds to search eagerly for him. He pities them and shows them the divine mercy – the Greek word is related to 'guts', so it is a profound 'gut-feeling' – and yet he repeatedly withdraws to be alone with his disciples to be sure that they understand his teaching. To be alone with Jesus is an essential part of their calling.

**Collect:**

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in faith, hope and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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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**SOCIAL DISTANCING ... A REMINDER**

Please remember that until tomorrow **we must still adhere to the guidelines**. You should only mix with others from your household in church,

and any social activity either before or after Mass should be within socially-distanced guidelines. Coffee is served after Mass at St Laurence, but please queue in a socially-distanced manner, taking your coffee outside, please. **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 further into 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.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Until Covid restrictions are lifted there will be no set times for confession; please contact Father David for socially distanced appointments. He is usually available before Mass on weekdays.

**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.

**Requests for prayers ...**

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

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim



Path:

Alas, it hadn't arrived before the copy cut-off time on Wednesday, but you may be able to access it via the New Pilgrim Path website.

**New Pilgrim Path is a labour of love. Our small team of two people run it on a shoestring. We do not look for or accept any form of financial support such as advertising and donations. Our only way of promoting the site is through word of mouth. If you find our website useful, please share the link: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie).**

## **Notices:**

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### **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 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 from...**

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#### **The beginning of Saint Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Magnesians**

##### **We should be Christians in deed as well as in name.**

Ignatius, also called Theophorus, to the church at Magnesia on the Maeander, a church blessed with the grace of God the Father in Christ Jesus, our Saviour, in whom I salute you. I send you every good wish in God the Father and in Jesus Christ.

I was delighted to hear of your love of God, so well-ordered and devout, and so I decided to address you in the faith of Jesus Christ. Honoured as I am with a name of the greatest splendour, though I am still in chains I sing with the praises of the churches, and pray that they be united with the flesh and the spirit of Jesus Christ, who is our eternal life; a union in faith and love, to which nothing must be preferred; and above all a union with Jesus and the Father, for if in him we endure all the power of the prince of this world, and escape unharmed, we shall make our way to God.

I have had the honour of seeing you in the person of Damas your bishop, a man of God, and in the persons of your worthy presbyters, Bassus himself. He did not spare himself, and therefore was not impudent in asking to be spared. Do you want God to be and Apollonius, and my fellow-servant, the deacon Zotion;

may I continue to take delight in him for he is obedient to the bishop as to the grace of God, and to the presbyters as to the law of Jesus Christ.

Now it hardly becomes you to presume on your bishop's youth, but rather, having regard to the power of God the Father, to show him every mark of respect. This, I understand, is what your holy presbyters do, not taking advantage of his youthful condition but deferring to him with the prudence which comes from God, or rather not to him but to the Father of Jesus Christ, to the bishop of all. So then, for the honour of him who loves us, it is proper to obey without hypocrisy; for a man does not so much deceive the bishop he can see as try to deceive the bishop he cannot see. In such a case he has to reckon not with a man, but with God who knows the secrets of the heart.

We should then really live as Christians and not merely have the name; for many invoke the bishop's name but do everything apart from him. Such men, I think, do not have a good conscience, for they do not assemble lawfully as commanded.

All things have an end, and two things, life and death, are side by side set before us, and each man will go *to his own place*. Just as there are two coinages, one of God and the other of the world, each with its own image, so unbelievers bear the image of this world, and those who have faith with love bear the image of God the Father through Jesus Christ. Unless we are ready through his power to die in the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us.

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

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

#### **St Laurence of Brindisi (1559-1619)**

St Laurence of Brindisi was born (in Brindisi!) joined the Capuchin Friars, and studied at the University of Padua, where he learned a number of languages (including Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, French, and German) and acquired a deep knowledge of the Bible. His principal vocation was preaching. He preached all over Europe, to Christians of all denominations (because of his knowledge of Scripture) and to Jews (because of his knowledge of Hebrew). He wrote many sermons, commentaries, and works of controversy in support of this vocation. His administrative talents meant that he also held a number of high administrative offices in the Capuchin order. He was also entrusted with many important diplomatic missions. On one of these, he not only persuaded the German princes to help defend Hungary from the invading Turks, but also led their troops into battle, armed only with a crucifix. He was engaged in another delicate mission, to

plead the cause of the oppressed people of Naples to King Philip III of Spain, when he died in Lisbon. For Laurence of Brindisi, preaching was the most important task of his life; but he took care to ensure that his preaching was backed by sound learning, so that he could preach **to** and not **at** his audiences. Let us take care that our own apostolate is similarly well-founded.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

**St Bridget of Sweden, Co-Patroness of Europe (1303-1373)**

St Bridget was married to a nobleman and had eight children. At the age of 30 she was summoned to the court of the King of Sweden, where she served as lady-in-waiting to the queen. She tried without much success to moderate the riotous and indecent life of the royal court. After a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Compostela in Spain, Bridget and her husband Ulf decided to spend the rest of their lives in monasteries. Ulf died in 1344, but Bridget went on to found a double monastery (for men and women in separate but adjacent institutions, much like her English counterpart, St Hilda of Whitby) as the start of a new monastic order, the Bridgettines, which survive to this day. In 1350 she travelled to Rome for the Holy Year, and spent the rest of her life there caring for the poor and the sick, denouncing the excesses of the aristocracy, and robustly telling the Pope to return to Rome from Avignon. She had many mystical visions, which alarmed her because she feared that they might be the work of the Devil; but a learned Cistercian monk reassured her, and she subsequently dictated and published the revelations she received, which were partially devotional and partly prophetic. She died on this day in 1373 and was buried in Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden, where her shrine has once again become a major place of pilgrimage – Father David visited it a few years ago, as did Pope St John Paul II, who declared St Bridget one of the co-patron saints of Europe, thereby pleasing Swedish Lutherans and Roman Catholics alike.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

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Those who are sick, especially: Grace Fouracres, Kes Grant priest, Kath Green, Keith Hann, Jennifer Hulls, Vanessa Jackson, Jean Jarvis, Maria Perkins, Doug Taft, Paul Underwood, Syd Warren, Ben, and Jemima.

Those who have recently died. and those whose anniversaries fall this week, Sam Cross, Reginald Harry Broadsword, Edith Anne Townsend, Walter Fairfield, Maud Collier

**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.

**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:** 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)

