

GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

An Ebbsfleet in Erewash Parish

September 12th 2021

Twenty-fourth Sunday in ordinary time

The Parish Mass 9.30am

Hymns all NEH (Green) :

Introit:	339	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Offertory:	362	Glorious things of thee are spoken
Post Communion	271	Alleluia, sing to Jesus
Recessional	76	Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

This Week in our churches

Monday **St John Chrysostom** 6.30pm Mass *at St Laurence*

Tuesday **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** 9.30am Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Wednesday **Our Lady of Sorrows** 10.00am Mass *at St Laurence*

Thursday 7.00pm Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Friday **St Hildegard of Bingen** 12noon Mass *at St Laurence*

Next Sunday 19th September

THE 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Education Sunday

9.30am THE PARISH MASS *at St Laurence*

11.15am THE PARISH MASS *at Holy Trinity*

This week's news:

COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Although we are now legally 'out of Lockdown', both PCCs have agreed some guidelines that we respectfully ask you to observe in our churches. You are requested to be measured in your contact with others, who may still be anxious and very concerned. Please continue to observe the wearing of face coverings when in proximity with others inside church, although please feel free to remove them when in pews and when you come forward for Holy Communion or a blessing. Most pews in both churches will now be 'open', although we shall reserve the option of reinstating some 'closed' pews if we expect extra people as, for example, if there is a baptism. Hand sanitiser will be available, and we request you to use it as you enter church – subsequent use is at your discretion, and we encourage you to bring your own should you wish to use it further. The presiding priest will continue to use hand sanitiser and wear a face visor when giving Holy Communion. 'Track and Trace' is now optional, so it is now up to you whether you wish to check-in with the NHS Track and Trace app.

The Sharing of the Peace.

This is now re-instated in a 'socially-observant' manner – **please remember that many people will prefer to avoid physical contact**, and so please make an appropriate gesture with the greeting, 'Peace be with you', and please don't move around the church.

The Communion greeting,

'The Body of Christ', will continue to be said only once and you are asked to say, 'Amen' all together rather than individually. The priest will continue to sanitise his hands before distributing the host, and to wear a face visor during the administration.

Father David's Rest Day this week is Thursday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father David is usually available before Mass on weekdays, or by appointment.

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 person is ill or in need of prayers, and he doesn't find out.

A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

As we have been unable to go on pilgrimage this year, on Friday 24th September, the **Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham**, we shall have a special evening at St Laurence, beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm, Mass of Our Lady of Walsingham at 7.00pm, followed by a reception in the Church Hall.

All welcome.

CHURCHWARDEN

Congratulations (or perhaps commiserations....?) to Chris Ellis on his appointment as Churchwarden – elect at last Sunday's Parochial Meeting. He will be officially admitted as Churchwarden on St Matthew's Day, 21st September via zoom.

WELCOME ON EDUCATION SUNDAY...

... to Mrs Ronni Barker, Headteacher of our parish school. St Laurence CofE Primary School.

THE COMMENTARY ON THE SUNDAY MASS READINGS

is now to be found on the weekly Mass sheet, rather than the newsletter.

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim



Path:

Website of the Week This is not to hand at the time of going to press but should be accessible on their 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.

Bishop Jonathan

Here is the text of the Pastoral Letter Father David read out last Sunday, for clarification, and also for information for those who were not at Mass last Sunday.

In a statement issued by Lambeth Palace last Friday (3rd September), Bishop Jonathan said,

'I have arrived at the decision to step down as Bishop of Ebbsfleet, in order to be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, only after a long period of prayer, which has been among the most testing periods of my life.

'Life in the communion of the Church of England has shaped and nourished my discipleship as a Catholic Christian for many decades. This is where I first received – and for half my life have ministered, as priest and bishop – the sacramental grace of Christian life and faith. I shall always treasure this and be thankful for it.

'I trust you all to believe that I have made my decision as a way of saying yes to God's present call and invitation, and not of saying no to what I have known and experienced in the Church of England, to which I owe such a deep debt.'

Bishop Jonathan has asked us to add the following words to that statement.

Dear Friends, the burden of my decision has been made heavier because of my consciousness of the impact that I know it must, inevitably, now have on you, the laity and clergy under my oversight and care – who have been the focus and joy of my ministry and devotion since becoming bishop in 2013.

Therefore, for one last time as your bishop but also as a fellow Christian, I want to assure you of my love for you, and that you are in my prayers and will always remain so. I dare also to ask your prayers for me.

With love in the Lord:

+Jonathan Ebbsfleet

Bishop Jonathan's ministry in the Church of England will cease on 8th September. The Archbishop of Canterbury is responsible for carrying forward the appointment of his successor.

A spiritual reading for this week from...

St Augustine's sermon *On Pastors*

We are Christians as well as leaders

You have often learned that all our hope is in Christ and that he is our true glory and our salvation. You are members of the flock of the Good Shepherd, who watches over Israel and nourishes his people. Yet there are shepherds who want to have the title of shepherd without wanting to fulfil a pastor's duties; let us then recall what God says to his shepherds through the prophet. You must listen attentively; I must listen with fear and trembling.

The word of the Lord came to me and said: Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel and speak to the shepherds of Israel. We just heard this reading a moment ago, my brothers, and I have decided to speak to you on this passage. The Lord will help me to speak the truth if I do not speak on my own authority. For if I speak on my own authority, I will be a shepherd nourishing myself and not the sheep. However, if my words are the Lord's, then he is nourishing you no matter who speaks. *Thus says the Lord God: Shepherds of Israel, who have been nourishing only themselves! Should not the shepherds nourish the sheep?* In other words, true shepherds take care of their sheep, not themselves. This is the principal reason why God condemns those shepherds: they took care of themselves rather than their sheep. Who are they who nourish themselves? They are the shepherds the Apostle described when he said: *They all seek what is theirs and not what is Christ's.*

I must distinguish carefully between two aspects of the role the Lord has given me, a role that demands a rigorous accountability, a role based on the Lord's greatness rather than on my own merit. The first aspect is that I am a Christian; the second, that I am a leader. I am a Christian for my own sake, whereas I am a leader for your sake; the fact that I am a Christian is to my own advantage, but I am a leader for your advantage.

Many persons come to God as Christians but not as leaders. Perhaps they travel by an easier road and are less hindered since they bear a lighter burden. In addition to the fact that I am a Christian and must give God an account of my life, I as a leader must give him an account of my stewardship as well.

This is particularly appropriate as the See of Ebbsfleet begins the Vacancy prior to the appointment of our new bishop.

Two Saints for this week:

Monday 13th September

St John Chrysostom (349-407)

Born in Antioch, one of the five great centres of early Christianity, after a thorough education, he took up the ascetic life. He was ordained to the priesthood, and became a fruitful and effective preacher. He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 397, and was energetic in reforming the ways of the clergy and the laity alike. He incurred the displeasure of the Emperor and was twice forced into exile. When the second exile, to Armenia, had lasted three years, it was decided that he should be sent still further away, but he died on the journey, worn out by his hardships. His sermons and writings did much to explain the Christian faith and to encourage the living of the Christian life: his eloquence earned him the surname *Chrysostom* (the Greek for *golden mouth*). He died on this day in 407.

Saturday 18th September

St Edith of Kemsing (961-984)

Also known as Edith of Wilton, she was the daughter of King Edgar, who abducted Wulfthryth, her mother, from her convent at Wilton, in Wiltshire. (For this act St Dunstan imposed on him the penance of not wearing his crown for seven years). Wulfthryth returned to her cell as soon as she could escape, and Edith was born there. She became a nun with Edgar's consent, and refused his offers of the abbacy of three different communities, remaining in the cloister under her mother, now Abbess of Wilton. In 978, after the murder of her half-brother, Edward the Martyr, certain magnates wished her to become Queen, but she refused. She was conspicuous for her personal service of the poor and fondness for wild animals. She had a church of St Denis built at Wilton, and died, at the age of 23, three weeks after its dedication, on this day in 984.

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick, especially: Grace Fouracres, Kes Grant priest, Kath Green, Keith Hann, Jane Hussy, Vanessa Jackson, Stuart Jackson, Anthony Newell, Maria Perkins, Doug Taft, Syd Warren, Ben and Jemima.

Those who have recently died, Tony Fedyszn, please remember also those whose anniversary of death falls this week Howard Gadd, Florence Martha Chattell, Reginald Redfern (p), Nancy Guise, Kate Ellen Muffett.

Contacts at St. Laurence

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Churchwardens

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Website

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

Contact us at: simondew.46@gmail.com

