

GRIDIRON

The Newsletter of **St Laurence Long Eaton**

An Ebbsfleet in Erewash Parish

September 5th 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in ordinary time

The Parish Mass 9.30 am

Hymns all NEH (Green) :

Introit:	436	Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
Offertory:	311	We pray thee, heavenly Father
Post Communion	272	All for Jesus, all for Jesus
Recessional	235	Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go

This Week in our churches

Monday 6.30pm Mass *at St Laurence*

Tuesday 9.30am Mass *at Holy Trinity, followed by a meeting of the Standing Committee*

Wednesday **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** 10.00am Mass *at St Laurence*

Thursday **St Peter Claver** 7.00pm Mass *at Holy Trinity*

Friday 12noon Mass *at St Laurence*

Next Sunday 12th September

THE 24th 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 Wednesday.

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.

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



Website of the Week: *Ephphatha* – 'Be Opened'!

The liturgy at this time includes the incident where Jesus heals the deaf and dumb man, using his own saliva and the Aramaic word, *ephphatha* – 'be opened!' When Jesus' original Aramaic words are used of Christ's original utterance. They are used deliberately to underscore the intimacy of the moment and the personal relationship of Jesus with the one with whom He is communicating.

When we are spiritually and emotionally paralysed, unable to receive God's love and cut off from the spiritual energies within our souls, we need to allow Christ to whisper into our depths – *ephphatha*! For a moving and encouraging reflection on this theme, visit www.newpilgrimpath.ie.

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A spiritual reading for today from...

A sermon on the Beatitudes by St Leo the Great

Christian wisdom

The Lord then goes on to say: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*. This hunger is not for bodily food, this thirst is not for any earthly drink: it is a longing to be blessed with righteousness, and, by penetrating the secret of all mysteries, to be filled with the Lord himself.

Happy is the soul that longs for the food of righteousness and thirsts for this kind of drink; it would not seek such things if it had not already savoured their delight. When the soul hears the voice of the Spirit saying to it through the prophet: *Taste and see that the Lord is good*, it has already received a portion of God's goodness, and is on fire with love, the love that gives joy of the utmost purity. It counts as nothing all that belongs to time; it is entirely consumed with desire to eat and drink the food of righteousness. The soul lays hold of the true meaning of the first and great commandment: *You shall love the Lord*

Finally, just as concern for one's neighbour is added to love of God, so the virtue of mercy is added to the desire for righteousness, as it is said: *Blessed are the merciful, for God will be merciful to them.*

Remember, Christian, the surpassing worth of the wisdom that is yours. Bear in mind the kind of school in which you are to learn your skills, the rewards to which you are called. Mercy itself wishes you to be merciful, righteousness itself wishes you to be righteous, so that the Creator may shine forth in his creature, and the image of God be reflected in the mirror of the human heart as it imitates his qualities. The faith of those who live their faith is a serene faith. What you long for will be given you; what you love will be yours for ever.

Since it is by giving alms that everything is pure for you, you will also receive that blessing which is promised next by the Lord: *Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.* Dear friends, great is the happiness of those for whom such a reward is prepared. Who are the clean of heart if not those who strive for those virtues we have mentioned above? What mind can conceive, what words can express the great happiness of seeing God? Yet human nature will achieve this when it has been transformed so that it sees the Godhead *no longer in a mirror or obscurely but face to face* – the Godhead that no man has been able to see. In the inexpressible joy of this eternal vision, human nature will possess *what eye has not seen or ear heard, what man's heart has never conceived.*

A Saint for this week:

Thursday 9th September

St Peter Claver (1581-1654)

Peter Claver was born in Catalonia and studied at the University of Barcelona. He became a Jesuit; and while he was studying philosophy in Mallorca, the door-keeper of the college, Alfonso Rodríguez, saw that his true vocation was to evangelize the New World, and encouraged him to fulfil that vocation. (Rodríguez was later canonized on the same day as Peter Claver himself). He arrived in Cartagena, in what is now Colombia, in 1610, and after his ordination six years later he became 'the slave of the

Negroes forever', labouring on their behalf for 33 years, attending to both their spiritual and material needs. The slave trade was repeatedly condemned by the Church; but it was too profitable to be stopped and on the whole the local church hierarchy kept quiet about it, much as they did in North America in the 19th century. He brought fresh food to the slave-ships as they arrived, instructed the slaves and baptized them in the faith, followed their progress and kept track of them even when they were sent to the mines and plantations, defending them as well as he could from oppressive slave-owners. He organized teams of catechists who spoke the many languages spoken by the slaves. He worked in hospitals also, looking after lepers among others, and in prisons. Naturally he made himself unpopular by his work: as his superior said, 'unfortunately for himself he is a Catalan, pig-headed and difficult'. Opposition came from both within the Church and outside it, but there were always exceptions. For instance, while many fashionable ladies refused to enter his city churches because they had been profaned by the presence of the blacks, a few, such as Doña Isabel de Urbina, became his strong and lifelong supporters. At the end of his life he fell ill with a degenerative disease and for four years he was treated neglectfully and brutally by the servant whose task it was to look after him. He did not complain but accepted his sufferings as a penance for his sins.

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 Fedyszyn, please remember also those whose anniversary of death falls this week Ada Colton, Arthur Potter, Hetty Hardy, Elizabeth Fletcher, Reg Richards, Shirley Corner, Daisy Whiting, Paul Smith.

Contacts at St. Laurence

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Churchwarden

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Website

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

Contact us at: simondew.46@gmail.com

