

GRIDIRON

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR
THE PARISH OF ST LAURENCE,
LONG EATON

in the See of Oswestry and the Diocese of Derby
www.st-laurence.net

Sunday 15th January 2023
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.30am THE PARISH MASS
Presider and preacher: Father David

Welcome to our worship today. Baptised and communicant members of any Christian denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion; if you'd prefer to receive a blessing, please carry a Mass booklet or hymn book with you when you come to the communion point. Gluten-free communion hosts are available – please let a sidesperson know if you require one. Large-print copies of the Order of Mass and children's Mass Booklets are also available. Refreshments are served after the Parish Mass in the hall – do join us.

Thought for the week

In light of the hour of judgement, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death. I am constantly reminded of what the writer tells us at the beginning of the (book of the) Apocalypse: he sees the Son of Man in all his grandeur and falls at his feet as though dead. Yet He, placing his right hand on him, says to him: 'Do not be afraid. It is I.'

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in one of his last letters

THIS WEEK at ST LAURENCE
Wednesday 10.00am Mass
Friday St Sebastian 12noon Mass
*Mass is also celebrated at Holy Trinity, Ilkeston,
on Tuesday at 9.30am and on Thursday at 7.00pm.*

Next Sunday 22nd January 2023
3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.30am THE PARISH MASS
Presider and preacher: Father David

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

***A priest is usually available to hear confessions
forty-five minutes before Mass on weekdays,
from 8.30am on Sundays, or by appointment.***

Music at St Laurence's this morning

*Today's hymns are from **The New English Hymnal***

Introit	310	We hail thy presence glorious
Gloria	Gloria 4	
Offertory	272	All for Jesus
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Angus Dei 2	
Post Communion	276 (2 nd t)	Bread of heaven
Recessional	332	All hail the power of Jesus' name*

**The Angelus is recited after the first verse, the hymn resuming after.*

EPIPHANY GIFTS

As is the custom here at St Laurence, if you would like to make an Epiphany gift towards this year's Sacristy expenses, special envelopes are still available.

Please see Yvonne after Mass for further details, and envelopes.

COVID 19 – IT HASN'T GONE AWAY!

OUR RESPONSIBILITY OF CARE FOR EACH OTHER

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Following the further lifting of restrictions, but in light of the continuing risk of infection, here at St Laurence you are requested to be measured in your contact with others, who may still be anxious and very concerned. **The Sharing of the Peace** will continue in a 'socially-observant' manner – please don't move around the church. The priest will continue to sanitise his hands before distributing the host, and may choose to wear a face visor/covering during the administration.

PRAYERS, PLEASE ...

The Sick: Derek Booth priest, Judy Crisp, Elvena Dew, Steven Elliot, Renée Else, Grace Fouracres, Keith Hann, Kati Hart, Jane Hessey, Julie Hunt, David Joseph, David Lawley, Pauline Lawley, Charlie Needham, Dave Perry, Angela Pown, Rick Savage, Ann Skeldon, Barbara Smith, Bill Turner, Steven Walton, Jemima and Natalie.

The Recently Departed: Raymond Glenn, Andrew Goyns priest, Connie Turner.

Anniversaries of death this week: Margaret Martin (Sun), Frederick Hallam (Wed), Arthur Mahoney, Florence Marshall (Thu), Charles Rippingate, Hilda Smith (Fri), John Worthington, Sylvia Mitchell (Sat).

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:



Thomas Merton's Prayer

James Finley lived as a monk at the cloistered Trappist monastery of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, where the world-renowned monk and author, Thomas Merton, was his spiritual director. In a 12-minute talk, Dr Finley provides a superb commentary on the following famous prayer by Thomas Merton: 'My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.'

Listen to the talk at www.newpilgrimpath.ie.

Holy Trinity, Ilkeston and St Laurence, Long Eaton ***Restoring Holy Communion in both kinds to the people***

I have received information from Bishop Tony with regard to restoring Holy Communion in both kinds to the people at Mass, and propose to do so at principal celebrations where I can be assured of the presence of a Eucharistic Minister to assist with the distribution, with effect from The Presentation of the Lord, 2nd February. That date is chosen not only as it is a principal Feast of the Lord, but also because it is the day of the episcopal ordination of our new bishop, and also because we are hosting the Candlemas celebration for all the local Oswestry parishes at Holy Trinity. Bishop Tony reminds us that **reception of the Precious Blood is an entirely personal decision** – and that receiving Holy Communion in either or both kinds effects the fullness of Sacramental Grace (as stated in Canon Law). I gather that in the Society parishes that have already reintroduced Holy Communion in both kinds there are many in the congregations who prefer to receive in just one kind, the consecrated host. Given the current rise in COVID infections I suspect that will remain the case for many communicants for the foreseeable future. I do hope this proposal will be acceptable to the congregations at both Holy Trinity and St Laurence.

Father David

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LAURENCE
DEACON AND MARTYR
LONG EATON**

Parish Priest

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Mr Andrew Sheasby
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to whom financial questions may be addressed

Items for inclusion in The Gridiron ...

*should be sent to Father David by **Wednesday evening**, please.*

Father David's rest day this week is Tuesday.

A FORWARD IN FAITH PARISH IN THE SEE OF OSWESTRY AND

 **The Society**
under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda

About today's Mass readings:

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The first reading from the Prophecies of Isaiah, written in the dark days of the Babylonian Exile, introduces a Servant of the Lord, formed in the womb to be the Lord's Servant and to bring light both to Israel and to the nations. Is this an individual whose mission is to bring Israel back to the Lord, or is it the nation of Israel, destined to bring the Gentile nations to the Lord? Despite the failure to recognise the Messiah, the faithful of Israel still bear witness 'to the ends of the earth' to God's promises. It is remarkable that already at this stage of revelation the universalist task given by God is seen to be to bring the whole world within the orbit of the salvation promised to Israel.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1:1-3

For the next few Sundays we hear passages from the **First Letter to the Corinthians**, one of the, arguably, most important letters attributed to St Paul (I well remember it as one of the principal texts in my second year at university ... trying to master it in St Paul's rather esoteric Greek!). In today's opening, Paul greets the Corinthians as the 'holy people of God', but – like the pilgrim Church today – they were far from uniformly holy. But they were chosen to be holy, so by that same divine choice given a designation to be holy. Corinth was a turbulent city. It had been sacked by the Romans for rebellion. But it lay on the narrow neck of land between the Aegean and Adriatic Seas, and so was a vital resource for shipping between eastern and western Mediterranean. After a hundred years it was rebuilt, and a hundred years after that, when Paul was writing, it was again a boom town, with two harbours, an international games more famous than the Olympics and a large segment of Jewish population. Paul spent eighteen months evangelizing the city before being driven out by the Jews. He kept in close contact, however, and wrote them several letters, of which two survive and which were included in what became the New Testament. It was not an easy relationship: the Corinthians were arrogant and quarrelsome. Paul does not hesitate to correct them. He calls them babies whom he can feed only on milk, which could have upset the city elders among them ...

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

This week we take a rare break in the Lectionary cycle of readings from the Gospel according to Matthew with a passage from the Fourth Gospel, picking up some of the strands and themes of last week's celebration of the Baptism of Jesus. In contrast to the other gospels, where the reader

observes the disciples discovering gradually who Jesus is, the Johannine account gives us a week between the baptism and the marriage-feast of Cana, during which Jesus is given increasingly significant titles by those who meet him: Rabbi, the Messiah, Son of God, King of Israel. Perhaps the most significant of all are those given by the Baptist himself, Lamb of God and Chosen One of God. Lamb of God overarches the gospel, for it comes again at the Crucifixion. According to the writer of the Fourth Gospel (called 'John', although we're not sure who he was) Jesus dies at the moment the paschal lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple, and 'John' alone refers to Jesus the scriptural saying 'Not one bone of his will be broken' (John 19:36), originally part of the instructions for the sacrificing of the lamb at the Festival of Passover (Exodus 12:46). In the **Book of Revelation** (also attributed to the same 'school' that produced the Fourth Gospel and the three **Johannine Letters**) Jesus is represented standing 'as a Lamb that seemed to have been sacrificed'. It is therefore an image both of his suffering and of his triumph. It links up with the picture of Jesus as the Suffering Servant of the Lord who moves through suffering and humiliation to vindication and to the triumph of God.

A nearly-saint for this week: Blessed Cyprian Michael Tansi **20th January**

A candidate for canonisation with a local link

Father Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi was born in Nigeria in 1903. He was brought up by the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans) and trained as a teacher and a catechist. Later he decided to join the seminary and in 1937 he was ordained a priest. In 1950 he left his Diocese in order to go to England where he joined the Cistercian **Abbey of Mount St Bernard, near Nottingham**. He had been singled out as the ideal candidate to be trained in England and then return to establish a Trappist Monastery in the Diocese of Onitsha in Nigeria. Father Tansi lived the monastic life with great faith and humility. Absorbed in prayer, he was a living example of patience and charity. Early in 1964 he was diagnosed with aortic aneurysm and died two weeks later on 20th January 1964. He was beatified by Pope St John Paul II in 1998, and awaits canonisation. He is (almost) regarded as the patron saint of Nigeria