

# GRIDIRON

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE PARISH OF ST LAURENCE, LONG EATON  
*in the Diocese of Derby and the See of Oswestry*  
[www.st-laurence.net](http://www.st-laurence.net)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9.30am THE PARISH MASS**

*Presider: Father David*

*Preacher: Father Darren Smith*

Welcome to our worship this Sunday. 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 Mass in the Hall – please join us. A particular welcome today to **Father Darren Smith**, the General Secretary of the Additional Curates Society, as our preacher.

## **Music at St Laurence's this morning**

*Today's hymns are from **Hymns Old and New***

Introit	644	Tell out, my soul
Gloria	Gloria 3	
Offertory	267	From heaven you came
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Angus Dei 2	
Post Communion	559	O thou, who at thy Eucharist
Recessional	560	Our God loves us*

*\*The first verse is sung before the Angelus, the remaining verses following.*

## **Thought for the week**

May your behaviour and your conversation be such that everyone who sees or hears you can say: this person reads the life of Jesus Christ.

**St Josemaría Escrivá**

**THIS WEEK at ST LAURENCE**

**Wednesday 10.00am Mass**

**Friday 12noon Mass**

*Mass is also celebrated at Holy Trinity, Ilkeston,  
on Tuesday at 9.30am, and on Thursday at 7.00pm.*

**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.***

***Tuesday is St Luke's Day***

*and we are invited to join the congregation of St Luke's, Derby, for their Patronal  
Festival Mass at 7.00pm when Bishop Tony will be presiding and preaching. St  
Luke's is in Parliament Street, Derby DE22 3RT*

***Saturday evening at 7.00pm***

***Beetle Drive and Ploughman's Supper***

*Tickets available at £5 each*

*Further details from Sara Sheasby*

*Please sign-up today for catering purposes*

***Next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022***

**30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**9.30am THE PARISH MASS**

*Presider and preacher: Father David*

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**ALL SAINTS DAY**

***Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November***

**SOLEMN MASS at 7.00pm**

*with the choir, **Aitone**, under the direction of Rob Durk,  
singing the **Missa Primo Tuono** by Antonio Lotti*

***Items for inclusion in The Gridiron ...***

*should be sent to Father David by **Thursday morning**, please.*

**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.

### ***This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:***



### **New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week:**

The mental quality of thought that drove St Ignatius' vibrant spiritual life was his remarkable imagination. It played a central role in his conversion. Through his many years of directing others, he discovered how useful the imagination could be in fostering a deeper relationship with God.

Imaginative prayer is recognized as one of the hallmarks of Ignatian spirituality. In its most common form, you take a passage from scripture, usually one of the gospels, and immerse yourself in it imaginatively using all the senses. You feel the heat of the day, smell the livestock and clouds of dust on the road, listen to Jesus' words, watch his actions. It's a way to engage the gospel personally, with all of our faculties. Some excellent imaginative contemplation exercises provided by the English Jesuits can be accessed at [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie).

New Pilgrim Path is a labour of love. Our small team of two people run it on a shoestring. We neither look for nor 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). New Pilgrim Path introduces fellow Christians of all denominations to the great wealth of online spiritual resources that our small team has discovered and continues to discover. We provide links to, and a brief description of, a variety of resources we have explored and found valuable. In addition to our permanent pages, each week we feature a **Website of the Week**, **Poem of the Week** and **Music of the Week**. We hope these links will help visitors to encounter the person of Christ.

**PRAYERS, PLEASE ...**

**The Sick:** Alison Allcorn, Judy Crisp, Elvena Dew, Steven Elliot, Renée Else, Grace Fouracres, Keith Hann, Kati Hart, Jane Hessey, Julie Hunt, Pauline Lawley, Angela Pown, Ian Rogers, Bill Turner, Jemima, John and Natalie.

**The Recently Departed:** Charles Culbert.

**Anniversaries of death this week:** John Monk, Sandra Ware (Sun), Gordon Proctor priest, Betsy Pateman (Mon), Paul Miller priest, David Tudor priest, Joseph Quinn (Tue), John Casboul (Wed), Joan Porter, Frank Smith, Michael Battison (Thu), Glennis Lings (Fri), Eric Powell, Pat Taft (Sat).

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

**Parish Priest**

Father David Lawrence-March  
The Vicarage . Regent Street . Long Eaton . NG10 1JX  
Office Telephone 01159464060  
Electronic mail [fatherdlm@icloud.com](mailto:fatherdlm@icloud.com)

**Churchwarden  
and Acting Safeguarding Officer**

Mrs Eleanor Naylor  
Telephone 07484893424  
*Mrs Naylor may also, at present, be contacted with regard to Hall bookings*

**PCC Secretary**

Mrs Lizbeth Fedyszyn  
Telephone 07846671104

**PCC Treasurer**

Mr Andrew Sheasby  
Telephone 01332 515335  
*to whom financial questions may be addressed*

**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:  
29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**First Reading: Exodus 18:8-13**

This battle scene seems to us nowadays a bit of an odd passage to choose to reinforce the gospel lesson of perseverance in prayer. Can we still pray for the slaughter of our enemies? An important value of these bloodthirsty passages of the First/Old Testament is to remind us that revelation is gradual: we cannot take in everything at once. Look how long it took us to realise that the logical consequence of Paul's little letter to Philemon is the total abolition of slavery! Paul didn't realise it, and nor did most Christians for 1,200 years (there was already legislation against enslaving Christians in the Thirteenth Century). Future generations may think our morality primitive too, as we or our successors come to understand Christianity ever more fully. Prayer, however, can be exciting and uplifting, but it can also be boring and exhausting, with just that sinking feeling of exhaustion, 'I can't hold my hands up any longer'. That is when we need really get on and hang on in there, expressing that God is not just one Mr Fixit among many possibles, but is our only hope and dependence. Cupboard-love alone will not do, nor a last-minute turn to someone about whose existence we had practically forgotten.

**Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2**

Most biblical scholars hold that, in accordance with a contemporary convention, the letters to Timothy and Titus were not actually written by Paul, but by a faithful disciple, still inspired by Paul, who puts what Paul would have said in the particular circumstances. Paul is represented as directing his two principal co-operators in their organisation of Church structures. These letters present a valuable picture of the problems of the Church, a generation or two after Paul, settling into an organisational pattern towards the end of the first and the beginning of the second centuries, and finding its way among the values of Hellenistic society. As the gospel message moved out of the restricted world of Judaism, and came into contact with the larger world of the Graeco-Roman Empire, new questions arose for Christians. A handful of reputable scholars, however, considers that Second Timothy is indeed by Paul. The inspired writer seems to be devoting much of his space to the use of scripture in preaching and controversy, but most of all the scriptures 'instruct you for salvation'. We have to receive the message, and take it to our own hearts before we can pass it on to others. This is by seeing the variety of ways in which God cares for us, his ever-present forgiveness in all our idiotic mistrust and shying away, our stubborn preference for our own search for happiness. Only by immersing ourselves regularly in the scriptures and growing to love these varied glimpses of God can we come to draw out their richness and sweetness. And there are plenty of difficulties to be overcome: the strangeness of language and ancient ways of

thought, the barbaric primitiveness of the Chosen People of God, the boring instructions on sacrifice and purity. Don't rush it or gobble it up. Go your own pace, and remember that it began as God's Word to Abraham, Moses, David or whoever, or Jesus helping his contemporaries to understand about the Kingdom, or Paul responding to the queries of his half-instructed converts. But now it is God's Word to **you**.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8**

We often make the mistake of thinking of prayer as mere asking, and this parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. Luke's versions of the parables attributed to Jesus are always lively, and the characters like to talk and explain themselves. The judge's fear of the widow can be translated that she will come and 'outface me', but it could also be translated 'hit me in the face'. But such persistence is only one aspect of Luke's teaching on prayer. He also shows us what our attitude in prayer should be, by the parable immediately following in the gospel, the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector: the tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke's teaching on Jesus at prayer: he reminds us that Jesus is always quietly at prayer to his Father. He needs to slip away to spend the night in prayer. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life, at his Baptism, when he chooses his inner circle of disciples before he teaches them to pray, at the approach of his Passion, finally forgiving and comforting others at his death. Paul tells us we should pray continually. The prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to parents is built on that loving relationship. It does not matter if the child is naughty, as long as the relationship is one of love; so we do not need to be perfect to make our requests to our Father.

### ***A Saint for this week***

#### **St John Paul II (1920-2005) 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After his ordination to the priesthood and theological studies in Rome, he returned to his homeland and resumed various pastoral and academic tasks. He became first auxiliary bishop and, in 1964, Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council. On 16<sup>th</sup> October 1978 he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II in tribute to his immediate short-lived predecessor, Blessed John Paul I. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. Among the many fruits which he has left as a heritage to the Church are above all his rich Magisterium and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church and for the Eastern Churches. In Rome on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005, the eve of the Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy), he departed peacefully in the Lord. He was canonized by Pope Francis on 27<sup>th</sup> April, the Second Sunday of Easter 2014.

