

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

Saturday/Sunday 24th/25th December 2022
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
11.30pm THE MIDNIGHT MASS
9.30am THE PARISH MASS

Welcome to our worship this Christmas weekend. 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.

Thought for the week

A strange ruler, an unexpected judge: the Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace, is born as a child among the world's unimportant people. From the beginning, the Saviour upsets every standard by which the unredeemed world has ruled itself. To celebrate Christmas in truth is for all our eyes to be opened to God's point of view.

Teresa Caldecott Ciliani

Music at St Laurence's at the Midnight Mass

*This evening's hymns are from **The New English Hymnal***

Introit	32 (omit *verse)	O little town of Bethlehem
Gloria	3	
Offertory	34	Once in royal David's city
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Angus Dei 2	
Post Communion	35	Silent night
Procession to the crib	30 (vv. 1, 2, 3)	O come, all ye faithful
Recessional	30 (vv. 5, 6, 7)	Child for us sinners

Music at St Laurence's on Christmas morning

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

Introit	30	(vv 1, 2, 6 & 7) O come, all ye faithful
Gloria	2	
Offertory	42	While shepherds watched ...
Sanctus	Sanctus 2	
Agnus Dei	Agnus Dei 2	
Post Communion	32	O little town of Bethlehem
Recessional	34	Once in royal David's city*

**The Angelus is not recited this morning – we have recorded music ...*

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.***

THIS WEEK at ST LAURENCE

Wednesday THE HOLY INOCENTS 10.00am Mass

Friday THE HOLY FAMILY 12noon Mass

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

Next Sunday 1st January 2023

MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Octave Day of Christmas

9.30am THE PARISH MASS

Presider and preacher: Father David

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.

Items for inclusion in The Gridiron ...

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

Father David's rest day this week is Thursday.

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, Pauline Lawley, Charlie Needham, Dave Perry, Angela Pown, Rick Savage, Karl Schnöll, Ann Skeldon, Barbara Smith, Bill Turner, Steven Watson, Jemima, John and Natalie.

The Recently Departed: Ron Bolton, Dorothy Titheridge.

Anniversaries of death this week: Fred Jarvis, Kathleen Ogle (Sun), Mary Malpas, Godfrey Dew (Wed), Evelyn Summers, Thomas Blair, Robert Hulls (Thu).

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:



Britten's Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* is extraordinarily beautiful and deeply reverent. In our website of the week it is done full justice by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge one of the finest collegiate choirs in the world. What better way to celebrate Christmas Day than by praying along with this sublime music? We include all the lyrics.

Do visit us on Christmas Eve also, for a very special poem and piece of music.

Access all this at 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. 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.

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

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A FORWARD IN FAITH PARISH IN THE SEE OF OSWESTRY AND



About Christmas morning's Mass readings:
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YEAR A

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

The prophet predicts the good tiding of the appearing of the Lord's Anointed One, Messiah, seen by Christians as a prediction of the Incarnation of God as one of us – Jesus the Saviour.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

The Letter to the Hebrews concentrates on the true humanity of Christ, who is also uniquely exalted, and also on Christ's priesthood. Here, at the opening of the letter, both these themes are sketched. Christ is higher than the angels, the very powers of God who accomplish the works of God and are the highest of all created beings. It is through these powers of God that God's will is accomplished, but Christ is incomparably higher than the angels. As 'the reflection of God's glory' and 'the imprint of God's being' Christ is spoken of in terms of God's Wisdom. In the Old Testament God's Wisdom is seen as the image, the reflection, the emanation of God through which God creates, and by which God is mirrored in the world, the way in which God's power and goodness is perceived. At the same time, in history as man, Christ has made purification for sins and has been exalted to the right hand of God. The whole history of salvation is hinted in these phrases, which express both the approach of God to human beings by the incarnation, and the exaltation of humanity by the vindication of Christ at his resurrection and ascension.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

The Prologue to the Fourth Gospel has a special place in Christian theology, and for centuries was recited at the end of the Mass as summary of the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation of all things by the Word, and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. In the centre comes the Incarnation, which enables and invites those who accept Christ to become children of God. The gospel-story of Mark begins at the baptism of Jesus, and the voice from heaven declaring that he is God's son. Matthew and Luke add the infancy-stories to show that Jesus possessed and manifested these divine qualities right from his birth. John goes back beyond this, to meditate on the ultimate part in both creation and its fulfilment of the Word who became flesh. Perhaps the most exultant cry of all is 'we have seen his glory', for glory belongs rightly to God alone. This statement contains the paradox that Christ as a human being made visible this divine glory, and that it was his own glory, witnessed by the followers among whom he lived and moved.