

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

Sunday 4th December 2022
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.30am THE PARISH MASS
with Holy Baptism
Presider and preacher: Father David

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 special welcome to the family and friends of **Arthur Mannering** for his baptism during the Parish Mass this morning. Arthur and his family have been with us many times in recent weeks. Please refer to the Baptism booklets, placed in each pew, for the differences that occur during Mass with Holy Baptism.

Music at St Laurence's this morning

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

Introit	6	Hark the glad sound ...
Offertory	7	Hills of the north rejoice
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Agnus Dei 2	
Post Communion	316 (t. 439i)	Sing to the Lord glad hymns ...
Recessional	14	The Advent of our God*

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

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.***

Thought for the week

If you want God, and long for union with him, yet sometimes wonder what that means or whether it can mean anything at all, you are already walking with the God who comes. If you are at times so weary and involved with the struggle of living that you have no strength even to want him, yet are still dissatisfied that you don't, you are already keeping Advent in your life.

Maria Boulding OSB, The Coming of God

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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Next Sunday 11th December 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

9.30am THE PARISH MASS

Presider and preacher: Father David

NEXT SUNDAY ...

'In the Pink!'

The Advent purple changes to rose next Sunday, signifying that we shall be just over halfway through Advent – so let's all try to wear an item of pink clothing (even if it's a 'hidden' item ?!).

THIS WEEK at ST LAURENCE

Wednesday 10.00am Mass

No Friday Mass this week

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

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 lunchtime**, please.*

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, Angela Pown, Ann Skeldon, Jill Turner, Jemima, John and Natalie.

The Recently Departed:

Anniversaries of death this week: Kathleen Bannister, Sheila Lee (Mon), Henrietta Bardill (Tue), Beatrice Fisher (Wed), Reginald Castledine (Thu), Albert Carter priest, Beryl Goodband (Sat).

New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week:

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:



A voice crying out in the wilderness

John the Baptist features prominently in Advent liturgical readings, as the Forerunner of the Messiah. This gigantic figure stands at the crossroads of salvation history. He represents both continuity and change. On one hand, he looks back to the tradition of the great prophets of the Old Testament. On the other, he is the harbinger of a new creation. A series of beautifully illustrated and deeply informative short films explores the life of this pivotal Scriptural figure through masterpieces in the National Gallery of London and beyond.

To see John the Baptist through the prism of art, from birth to beheading, offers extraordinary insights into Christ's cousin and precursor. Access the films here: To access this, and a wealth of other inspiring online Advent resources, visit 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 today's Mass readings:

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

From this reading the seven gifts of the Spirit are, rather artificially, taken. Seven is the perfect number, so this is intended to signify that the promised ruler will have all possible gifts of what we more generally call wisdom and understanding. He will be a ruler before whom one can stand in the secure knowledge that his judgement will be deeply fair and satisfying. The 'fear of the Lord' ensures that they will be in accordance with the divinely-ordered bases of creation. Such is the Ruler whom we await at Christmas. It was surely these qualities which made Jesus such an attractive and charismatic figure, so that he could, as a wholly unknown stranger, pass those fishermen, and they would drop everything and respond to his call, 'Follow me'. Confrontation with his personality was shock enough and inspiring enough to cure sickness. His simple word gave assurance of forgiveness of sin. His command reduced the elements of nature to serenity. In the second half of the reading we see the consequences, a return to the peace of the mythical Garden of Eden. No more hostility, no more jealousy. Nature, even human nature, will not be red in tooth and claw.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Paul is here summing up his message to the Christians in Rome, a fragmented community of several house-churches, some drawn from Judaism, some from the Gentiles. He has described and analysed Christ's work of salvation, the generosity of Christ in giving himself up for us, to win us back to the Father. Then he calls upon his hearers to imitate Christ's generosity. He speaks first to the Christians sprung, like himself, from Judaism, reminding them of the promises of Scripture, the heritage of Judaism, which were to inspire them with hope, for God's promises are never-failing and sure. Then he reminds them with a string of quotations (only the first of which is given, at the end of this reading) that God's promises were intended for the Gentiles too, so that they too should praise God's name. Why are we given this reading in Advent? Because the perfect generosity of Jesus Christ in taking on this work of our salvation must be the model for our own generosity, both to those who are our natural friends and to those who are not, and

because it must be the basis of our hope. However neglectful and ungrateful we are, Christ's work **cannot** have been in vain.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1 - 12

For many, if not most, of us, 'Repentance' is an unattractive idea. It conjures up morose brooding over past sins and failures, a negative idea. This is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. In Hebrew and Greek the concept is a change of behaviour, a change of direction. John is calling on them to change their ways, to change their scale of values, their whole direction of life. To reinforce his message he wears the clothes worn by Elijah, the prophet who was to return to announce the final coming of the Lord. He proclaims his message in the desert, that apocalyptic landscape of the arid and bare Jordan Valley, below sea-level, where merchants would be crossing the Jordan on the road to the East. So he makes a deliberate claim to be this final prophet and to be preparing a way for the Lord. We see Jesus as the Messiah, the loving Saviour, but John was not yet proclaiming Jesus. He was proclaiming the threatening and imminent arrival of the sovereignty of God, when rotten trees would be cut down and evil swept away to be burnt in unquenchable fire. If we are to be open to the arrival of the Kingship of God, we may need to look to our scale of values. Am I the only person who matters to me?

A saint for this week ...

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin (1474 - 1548)

9th December

St Juan Diego was born in about 1474 in Cuauhtitlan in the kingdom of Texcoco, part of present-day Mexico. As an adult he embraced Christianity and he and his wife were baptized. In 1531 the Mother of God appeared to him, on the hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City, and told him to ask the bishop to have a church built on the spot. Through the purity of his faith, his humility and his fervour, a church was built, in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe (whose feast is celebrated on 12th December). He left everything and devoted himself to the care of the sanctuary (the Walsingham of Mexico!) and the reception of pilgrims until his death in 1548.

