

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 20th November 2022
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
9.30am THE PARISH MASS
Presider and preacher: Father David

Thought for the week

In Christ we have every ideal: for he is King, he is Love, he is God.

St Josemaría Escrivá

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.

Music at St Laurence's this morning

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

Introit	652	The head that once was crowned ...
Gloria	Gloria	
Offertory	229 (2 nd t)	Crown him with many crowns
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Angus Dei 2	
Post Communion	469	Majesty
Recessional	459	Lord, you gave the great commission*

**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.***

Next Sunday 27th November 2022
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
A new Church Year begins
9.30am THE PARISH MASS with Holy Baptism

THIS WEEK at ST LAURENCE
Wednesday 10.00am Mass
No Friday Mass this week
because of the Christmas Tree Festival.

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

The Christmas Tree Festival

Our biggest fundraising activity of the year fast approaches, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Much help is needed for the three days themselves and the run-up to the festival, not least in stewarding the event. Please see the lists at the back of church and sign-up for any slots you can fill. We also need volunteers to bake for the cake stall – lists also available – and to provide mince pies for the Thursday evening, and the following week for the Silver Prize Band Advent Concert on 2nd December. Further details from churchwarden Eleanor Naylor and Social Committee co-ordinators Sara Sheasby and Yvonne Shattower.

ALL OFFERS OF HELP GREATLY APPRECIATED.

And from Yvonne ...

We shall be having our usual **HAMPER RAFFLE** at the Tree Festival/Advent concert this year, and we are asking for donations of good quality food items. There is a yellow list on the table of items we need; can you please have a look at it and choose one or more? This is a great money spinner so we want it to be as attractive as possible.

PRAYERS, PLEASE ...

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

The Recently Departed: David Rockley (funeral on Monday), Geoffrey Sowerby priest.

Anniversaries of death this week: Frank Parker, Harris Dew (Sun), Tom Allen, Vernon West, Mabel Nassau (Mon), Gwendoline Helliwell (Tue), Wilfred Garnett, Elizabeth Adams (Thu), Gillian Tye, Margaret Lineker, Kenneth Adlington priest, Alfred Bodley (Sat).

**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.*

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:



New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week:

Online Advent Resources

This Sunday, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (popularly called 'Christ the King'), is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we begin to look forward to the great season of Advent. Advent – for Christians of many denominations - is a time of light amid deep darkness, a time of waiting in hope and preparing ourselves to receive Christ into our hearts and our lives. New Pilgrim Path offers a range of online retreats and resources to help participants come to know Christ in a new and deeper way as we prepare to welcome the Light of the World at Christmas. Access these at www.newpilgrimpath.ie.

The PCC Meeting scheduled for Monday 21st November has been rescheduled for Monday 28th November as Father David has a funeral in Northamptonshire that afternoon.

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

Parish Priest

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***Churchwarden
and Acting Safeguarding Officer***

Mrs Eleanor Naylor
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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
Electronic mail stlaurence.treasurer@yahoo.com
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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:

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, YEAR C

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

David, the second King of Israel, is a fascinating character. As a leader he had a charm and charisma which were irresistible. There is no doubt that he was ambitious. When the women sang, 'Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands', it was music to his ears. The king's son fell in love with him and gave him his own prince's gear. The king's daughter fell in love with him, and he accepted her as a good dynastic marriage; but he never had children by her, though he was not lacking in sexual drive (Bathsheba was to come later). He set up a protection racket in Judah and so won the loyalty of the tribal leaders there; they first anointed him king of Judah at Hebron, the southern tribal capital. Finally, after Saul's death, the elders of the northern tribes, Israel, came to anoint him king as well, to reign over the whole country. But he also took the first steps to setting up the Temple cult, and was ever after remembered for that. It was to David that the promises of God's eternal monarchy were given which were to be fulfilled in Jesus. These promises echo down and down the scriptures; they were the basis of all Israel's hope.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

This reading from Paul's letter to the church in Colossi celebrates the unrivalled position of Jesus as first-born not only in the order of creation, but also in the resurrection. In the order of creation, Christ is the image of the unseen God, the model or template on which God created the world, the Wisdom of God, so the first-born and yet himself uncreated. In the order of the resurrection also he is the first-born, bringing all things to perfection, and so the crown of creation. Before this we today have a significant preface. Paul is writing, with a slight air of surprise, to what was a Gentile (non-Jewish) Christian community in Colossi: the gentiles too are enabled to enter into this inheritance, to join Christ in this kingdom, promised to David and fulfilled in Jesus. As this year's gospel readings have taught us again and again, it is not a kingdom that we can earn. All we need to do is to submit ourselves for forgiveness. Not all that easy, perhaps ... Put it the other way round: all we need to do is stop pretending to others and ourselves that we are perfect and just get on with trying to live the Christian life.

Gospel Reading: Luke 23:35-43

It hardly needs saying that this passage from the Lukan account of the Passion (Luke is the only Evangelist who includes this specific event) is one

of the most personal encounters of the Crucifixion, and certainly make some very specific elements of the individual's response to Jesus. As we approach the end of the current liturgical cycle, this Gospel reading for the last Sunday of the Church Year takes up one of the key elements in the Lukan gospel narrative and shows, once again, Jesus taking up the cause of the underdog, the marginalised, the person on the periphery of respectability and society, and welcoming him – and, indeed, each one of us - into the eternal orbit of God's love.

One Hundred and Seventeen Saints for this week ...

Saints Andrew Dũng-Lạc and his Companions

24th November

The evangelization of Vietnam began in the 16th Century and was formally established with the setting up of two Vicariates Apostolic in 1659. There are now about six million Christians in Vietnam, some 10% of the population. This growth comes partly from the fact that since the earliest times the seed of the Faith has been watered by the blood of the martyrs of Vietnam – the missionary clergy, the local clergy and the ordinary Christian people. They have all shared the labour of apostolic work and have together faced death to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel. In the course of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries no less than 53 decrees, signed by the lords and emperors of the country from 1625 to 1886, launched one persecution of Christians after another, each one more savage than the last. Over the whole territory of Vietnam about 130,000 Christians were killed in these persecutions. Over the centuries the names of most of them have been lost, but their memory is still alive in the predominantly Roman Catholic and Anglican Christian communities of Vietnam. Since the beginning of the 20th century 117 of these heroes (those whose sufferings were cruellest and best documented) were beatified, in four groups. They were all canonized together by Pope John Paul II on 19th June 1988. Each one of them was a soul individually created and loved by God, with a life and gifts uniquely his or her own; but with such a huge crowd one can only classify. By nationality, there were 96 Vietnamese, 21 Europeans. By status, there were eight bishops, 50 priests, and 59 laymen and women. By mode of death, 75 were beheaded, 22 strangled, six burned alive, five torn to pieces while still alive, and nine died of torture in prison.

