

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 23rd October 2022
30TH 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 **The New English Hymnal***

Introit	359	Fight the good fight
Gloria	Gloria 4	
Offertory	410	My God, how wonderful thou art
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Angus Dei 2	
Post Communion	307	Sweet Sacrament divine
Recessional	351	Come, ye faithful*

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

Thought for the week

Don't omit your visits to the Blessed Sacrament. After saying your usual prayer tell Jesus, really present in the tabernacle, about the cares and worries of your day. And he will give you light and courage for your life as a Christian.

St Josemaría Escrivá

Father David's rest day this week is Thursday

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.**

Next Sunday 30th October 2022

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.30am THE PARISH MASS

Presider and preacher: Father David

ADVANCE NOTICE

ALL SAINTS DAY

Tuesday 1st November

SOLEMN MASS at 7.00pm

*with the choir, **Aitone**, under the direction of Rob Durk,
singing the **Missa Primo Tuono** by Antonio Lotti
and other Baroque devotional music*

On Saturday evening at St Laurence

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE CONCERT

with the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band

Further details on the posters around/outside church

Don't miss this popular annual event

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: Herbert Atkin, Valerie Povey (Mon), Albert Cunnicliffe (Wed), Harriet Harding (Thu), Beatrice Fairfield, Winifred Osborn, June Potts, Wilfreid Osborn, Ada Osborn (Sat).

This week's spiritual link from New Pilgrim Path:



New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week: The Song of Songs

The great mystic, St Teresa of Avila, said that in the Old Testament book, the **Song of Songs**, the Lord is teaching the soul how to pray. 'Along how many paths, in how many ways, by how many methods you show us love! ...in this Song of Songs, you teach the soul what to say to you... We can make the Bride's prayer our own.'

If Teresa is right and the loving, desiring, passionate language of the Song is the language in which God longs to hear the soul speak, many of us may have to make a radical shift in our perception of what it is to love and be loved by God. Why, from the hundreds of Old Testament passages used in readings for Sundays and Holy Days in the Lectionary, are only two passages from the Song included? Listen to – and pray with - this tremendous hymn of praise, stunningly read by David Suchet (the actor who played Hercule Poirot in the television adaptations Of the Agatha Christie novels), 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.

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.

**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
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***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

Items for inclusion in The Gridiron ...
*should be sent to Father David by **Wednesday lunchtime**, please.*

A FORWARD IN FAITH PARISH IN THE SEE OF OSWESTRY AND

About today's Mass readings:

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

The Book of **Sirach**, or **Ecclesiasticus**, was translated into Greek by the grandson of the author. The grandfather wrote in Hebrew. He was a wise, witty and sometimes cynical teacher of Jerusalem, who gathered and built on the pithy sayings of the sages. The first part of this reading, about the widow's persistent appeal to the Lord, may well be the basis of last Sunday's parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Did Jesus build his parable on this piece of wisdom of the ancients, or did Luke use Sirach to expand Jesus' teaching? So also the second part of the reading, which prepares us for today's parable of contrasting suppliants, proud and humble, in the Temple: did Jesus build on the ancients or Luke? Jesus, as a devout and educated Jew, certainly heard and learnt from the Tenakh, the holy books of Judaism. Whether Jesus directly used it or not, the message of the two parts is clear in the phrase which joins them: whoever wholeheartedly serves God will be accepted. There can be no pretence in prayer.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

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. Today's passage is a summing-up and defence of Paul's mission, according to the literary conventions of the time. We do not know where the trial he mentions took place, nor the eventual outcome, though the tradition holds strong that he was martyred in Rome (and his severed head is supposed to have bounced three times, giving rise to three fountains, the famous *Tre Fontane* ...). In his letters Paul several times mentions imprisonment, but nowhere a formal trial, so that we can only guess. Did he set out on further journeys, even to Spain, after his confinement in Rome? We do not know. The sporting images of 'the good fight' and the 'race' are typical of Paul, and also the image of a libation, the first few drops from a cup of wine, offered in homage to a divinity. But most of all we are reminded that Paul had long yearned for death and to be fully united to his Lord and ours: 'Life to

me, of course, is Christ, and death would be a positive gain' (Philippians 2:21), though he was held back by the positive need for his energetic guidance.

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

Luke is the evangelist of prayer, offering frequent hints about it, as we heard in last week's Gospel, for example. In Luke's account of the Gospel, Jesus is explicitly mentioned as being in prayer more often than in any other, at the Baptism, the Transfiguration, when called upon to teach his disciples the Lord's Prayer (3:21; 6:12; 11:1). The Agony in the Garden is shaped to show the need for prayer in time of testing (22:40). In the Infancy Narratives Luke's characters burst into prayerful praise on every occasion, and from these we derive the three great canticles of the Church, the *Magnificat*, the *Benedictus* and the *Nunc dimittis*. Luke's versions of the parables insist on the need for perseverance in prayer, especially the parables of the Friend at Midnight (11:9-12) and the Unjust Judge (18:1-5). Their motives may not be perfect: the Friend at Midnight eventually caves in because he does not want to be shamed for inhospitable behaviour when the whole village hears the hammering on the door. And the appellant to the Unjust Judge seems to be on the edge of violence, threatening to hit the Judge in the face. But the message is to persevere. Today, in this parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector, Luke combines deadly earnestness with humour in a typically Lukan fashion. The pompous and self-contradictory bragging of innocence by the Pharisee is duly repellent, while the humble self-accusation of the tax-collector is something to which we can all, surely, aspire.

Two Saints for this week

Saints Chad and Cedd, Bishops and Missionaries, 26th October

St Chad was educated at Lindisfarne under St Aidan. He became abbot of Lastingham and was chosen to be bishop of Northumbria, but St Wilfrid contested his appointment, and Chad obediently withdrew. He was then sent as bishop to Mercia, where he founded the see of Lichfield. His ministry there was very short (he died at Lichfield on 2nd March 672), but he was immediately revered as a saint because of the holiness of his life, his outstanding humility, and his dedication to preaching of the Gospel. Like his brother St Chad, St Cedd was educated at Lindisfarne under St Aidan. He founded many monasteries and was sent as a bishop to evangelize the East Saxons. He established his see at Bradwell in Essex. He died at his monastery at Lastingham in Yorkshire on 26th October 664, of the plague. St Chad is also commemorated on 2nd March, the day of his death, in the Diocese of Lichfield, where the new Bishop of Oswestry will be based. Our prayer intention today is for the Diocese of Lichfield, and for Bishop Michael Ipgrave, its bishop.