

# 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 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Harvest Thanksgiving at St Laurence**  
**9.30am THE PARISH MASS**  
*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.

We also welcome this morning **Mr Alan Golding**, Trustee of **The Caanan Trust**, which we are supporting as our Harvest Charity, and who will give us an update on the work of the Trust at the end of Mass.

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

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

Introit	259	Come, ye faithful people
Gloria	Gloria 3	
Offertory	262	We plough the fields, and scatter ...
Sanctus	Sanctus 3	
Agnus Dei	Agnus Dei 2	
Post Communion	285 (1 <sup>st</sup> t)	For the beauty of the earth
Recessional	261	To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise*

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

**Father David's rest day this week is Saturday**

**Next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022**  
**27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9.30am THE PARISH MASS**  
*Presider and preacher: Father David*

**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**  
**Monday 6.30pm Mass**  
**Wednesday 10.00am Mass**  
**Friday St Jerome 12noon Mass**  
*Mass is also celebrated at Holy Trinity, Ilkeston,  
on Tuesday at 9.30am, and on Thursday at 7.00pm.*

**The Parochial Church Council**  
*meets after Mass on Monday evening*

**COVID-19**  
**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 Communion greeting**, 'The Body of Christ', is now restored individually, but you are asked to reply, 'Amen', *sotto voce*! The priest will continue to sanitise his hands before distributing the host, and may choose to wear a face visor/covering during the administration.

**PRAYERS, PLEASE ...**

**The Sick:** Alison Allcorn, Judy Crisp, Elvena Dew, 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:** Anthony Couchman priest, Charles Culbert, Alan Townsend priest, Cordel Young.

**Anniversaries of death this week:** Arthur Hill (Sun), Wilfred Taplin (Mon), Kath Fletcher (Wed), Clarice Beresford, Amelia Brentnall, Richard Moss (Thu), Lily Hunt, George Campbell (Fri), Louise Stanney (Sat).

### ***Thought for the week, for Michaelmas Day on Thursday***

Angels, to whom the willing task is given, shall tend and nurse and lull thee, as thou liest, and Masses on the earth, and prayers in Heaven shall aid thee at the Throne of the Most Highest.

***St John Henry Newman, The Dream of Gerontius***

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



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

#### **Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action**

2022 is the third year of the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action (CNDA), observed between 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Peace Day and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi's birthday. The theme for 2022 is: 'Blessed is every step toward nonviolence.' Acknowledging that a life of nonviolence is a process that takes daily work, you are invited to take steps that broaden your understanding of its many facets, steps that deepen your faith in the nonviolent message of the Gospel, and steps that increase your engagement as we build a nonviolent world for all of God's creation. Pax Christi International has developed a valuable guide for groups and individuals to *Making Active Nonviolence Our Way of Life in the Church and the World*. You can access it here: [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.

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

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

***Parish Priest***

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Mr Rob Dainty  
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Mr Chris. Ellis  
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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:**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**First Reading: Amos 6:1, 4-7**

'Alas for those who lounge in front of the telly, munching their crisps and slurping their lager. Alas for those who zoom the streets, singing raucously along with their blaring radios.' Is Amos simply a middle-aged spoil-sport, castigating the evils of his time? The real question is whether they manoeuvre themselves off the couch for the sake of the needy person at the door, whether they spring out of the 'car to help the blind person across the road. Following that, what is our society coming to, what can I do to help remedy the fundamental ills of our society, whatever I conceive them to be? What can I, helpless and half-hearted as I am, do to build on the ruins? How far can Jesus push me? One thing is sure, it is always one step further than my comfort-zone. The Lord may not want me to go and be a St Charles de Foucauld, a St Oscar Romero, or a St Teresa of Kolkata, but he always wants me to go one step nearer, whatever my state of life, one step at a time out of my comfort-zone in response to his challenge. I can never say I have done all I need to do.

**Second Reading: I Timothy 6:11-16**

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 Greco-Roman Empire, new questions arose for Christians. These letters contain several little hymns of praise to Christ. After his final exhortation to Timothy to perseverance and to witness, the author gives this concluding doxology as an inspiration for his (and our) devotion to Christ, enumerating seven titles of Christ's pre-eminence. In this egalitarian world, where TV has almost abolished the mystique of royalty, the first three titles of royalty (Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords) may not move us too much. But who would absent themselves if even a 'minor royal' was coming on a visit to office or factory,

let alone the Lord of all Lords? The other awesome titles cannot fail to draw us. He possesses as his own the immortality for which we crave. He dwells in the sphere of faultless light which we cannot even envisage, let alone enter. He is beyond our sight, our comprehension, even our imagination. His are power and honour without end. We can only be amazed at how far he is beyond us, and yet that he walked beside the Lake of Galilee with his chosen friends, and allowed himself to be humiliated before his exaltation.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-13**

This parable of Jesus comes only in the Gospel according to Luke, another of those dreadful warnings of the danger of wealth, for Luke gives us always the Gospel to the poor: contrast the welcome given to Jesus by the shepherds and the fabulously wealthy King Herod ... Luke shows us those who blithely turn down their invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom in order to try out their new holiday cottage, their latest Porsche or the re-fitted yacht. Through the Crafty Steward he reminds us that those who want to make money are often sharper than those who want to make the Kingdom. Through the Rich Fool he reminds us that well-stocked barns are no remedy against death. For me there are three particularly horrible features of today's parable: firstly, the flea-ridden dogs licking Lazarus' sores: there are no pets in Palestine; dogs are either bristling guard-dogs or mangy curs. Secondly, the Rich Man's continuing self-absorption: even after death he still does not recognise Lazarus' existence and thinks only of his own burning tongue; contrast Abraham's gentleness: it almost looks as though he would cross the chasm if he could. Thirdly, the obdurate brothers; they are just not willing to listen, even to the most startling event; nothing will distract them from their own selfish pre-occupations. Where do we stand?

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

#### **St Jerome (340-420) 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Jerome was born in Strido, in Dalmatia. He studied in Rome and was baptized there. He was attracted by the ascetic life and travelled to the East, where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope St Damasus, but on the Pope's death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where (with the aid of St Paula and others) he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school, and settled down to the most important work of his life, the translation of the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today. He wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When a time of troubles came upon the world, through barbarian invasions, and to the Church, through internal dissension, he helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem.

