**TRINITY**

The Newsletter of

**Holy Trinity Church Ilkeston**

**Sunday 7th September 2025**

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**11am Parish Mass  Celebrant and Preacher Fr Ken Jones**

**Music at Holy Trinity this morning:**

Today's hymns are from New English Hymnal (Green)

**Introit**  413 Now thank we all our God

**Gloria**  4

**Psalm** 90

**Gradual** 376 I heard the voice of Jesus say

**Offertory** 417 O God, our help in ages past

**Sanctus** Sanctus 1

**Agnus Dei**  Agnus Dei 1

**Communion**  276 Bread of Heaven

**Recessional** 420 O Jesus I have promised

**Angelus**

**Services at Holy Trinity for the week ahead and next Sunday**

**Tuesday 9th September 9.30 am Mass**

**Thursday 11th September 7.00 pm Mass**

(Mass is said also at St Laurence's, Long Eaton on Wednesday at 12.30 pm and on Saturday at 9.30 am)

**Next Sunday 14th September 2025 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**11.00am THE PARISH MASS Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Max**

 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 with you. **Please join us for refreshments afterwards in the church hall**

**This week's news:**

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**Dates for the diary/calendar**

 Further details of the following events will follow nearer the time but it may be useful to get the dates in your diary or on your calendar to avoid any clashes. **Rosemary**

**Christmas Party Tuesday 9th December**

**Floral workshops Friday 12th December AND Tuesday 16th December**

**Christingle Monday 1st December**

**Carol Service Monday 15th December**

**Lectio Divina**

 There will as usual be no meeting in August, and meetings then continue on the fourth Wednesday of the month, starting on the 24th Septemberl. I hope by then to be fit enough to attend and lead the session. At each study we will be using the following Sunday’s Gospel reading.  Everyone is welcome.  **Andrew Smith**

**Harvest Supper, Tuesday 7th October, 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

 Tickets (£10.00, children £7.50) are now available. The choice of main course will be roast loin of pork or cottage pie. Maximum number 40 people so don’t delay!  Donations of suitable raffle prizes will be much appreciated. **Rosemary**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

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 Those who are sick: including Pam Bailey, Ian Birkin, Colin Booth, Fr Michael Brinkworth, Carole Chapman, Frank Clewes, Anne, Esme, and Nigel Gamble, Ann Henshaw, Jean Jarvis, George Mills, Stuart Mills, Sheena Powell, Anne Riley, Len Shelbourne, Andrew Smith, Martha Smith, Paul Smith, Natasha Smith-Thorley, Bryan Straw, and Yvonne Wilcockson.

 All who have recently died, especially Gary Marsh; please remember also those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Evelyn Mitchell, Eric Stevewnson, Agnes Beardsley, John Riley, Peter Bostock, John Cooper, Roy Smedley, James Philipps, and Jean Wildey

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in Memory of the late Peter Bostock, and also of the late Eric Stevenson

**Contacts at Holy Trinity:**

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**Parish email address:** info@holytrinityilkeston.org.uk

**Parish phone number**: 07842 719682

**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr Max Marsh

**Email:** priest@holytrinityilkeston.org.uk

**Phone**: 07713 883340

**Address:** The Vicarage, Regent Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1JX

Fr Max's usual day off is Friday

**Churchwardens:**

Geoff Raby: 07905 323116,  Email: *geoffreyraby@aol.com*

Sharon Wright: 07794 366310,  Email:*spwright38@gmail.com*

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Sue Rollisson:  0115 9321087,  Email: *sue.rollisson@gmail.com*

**Parish Treasurer:**

Mrs Margaret Breedon:  0115 944 0020 / 07951 060667,  Email: *margaretbreedon45@gmail.com*

**Parish Safeguarding Link:** Mrs Nicky Bailey 07809 680034, Email: *nickybailey1938@gmail.com* (Nicky also has the honorary title of Churchwarden Emerita)

**Newsletter:** Please send material for each Sunday's Newsletter to Richard Pykett as soon as it is ready, and at the latest by 12 noon on the previous Wednesday.  07850 428299.

Email: *richard.pykett@techademic.net*

**5th Ilkeston Holy Trinity Brownies:** Brown Owl: Bev:  07747 142501

**5th Ilkeston Holy Trinity Rainbows**:  Fiona 07914 717248

**Tiny Tots** (Parent and Toddler Group) Helen Crisp 07790 876015

**Church Hall Bookings:**Mrs Christine Hudson

Tel. 0115 932 2796, or email: hudson.owlhudson@btinternet.com. The Church Hall is a community facility and we welcome bookings especially from local people and groups. Please contact Christine for further details and availability.

**Commmentary on the Readings for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

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**First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18**

 This lovely passage is the conclusion of Solomon’s prayer for heavenly Wisdom, saying that heavenly Wisdom and the true knowledge of the things of God are beyond human grasp. If we cannot penetrate to an understanding of the visible world around us, how can we hope to reach an understanding of the divinity beyond the grasp of all our senses? The prayer is put in the mouth of King Solomon, who in the First/Old Testament is almost the personification of human wisdom, but artificially, for the Book of Wisdom was composed at Alexandria only shortly before the birth of Christ. The recognition at this moment that divine Wisdom lies well beyond the reach of all human faculties is all the more impressive in view of the achievements of the great philosophical schools of Alexandria. Such occasional poems, scattered through the Wisdom Books of the First/Old Testament, are a valuable reminder that God is beyond all human comprehension in wisdom, strength and beauty. Perhaps the most beautiful and overwhelming of all is the experience of God conveyed in the poems of Job 38-41. These poems may also be seen as praise of the Wisdom of God which will become flesh and be manifest to us in Christ Jesus.

**Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17**

 Paul’s letter to Philemon – and this reading makes up about half the letter – is a friendly little note from Paul to Philemon about a slave of Philemon’s called Onesimus, who has been serving Paul in his imprisonment, and has become a Christian. There are two theories why Onesimus was with Paul: either Onesimus ran away from his master and took refuge with Paul, or Philemon lent Onesimus to Paul for a limited period. In either case Paul is now sending Onesimus back, and at the same time pressurizing Philemon to send him Onesimus for a further period. The most important and attractive element in the letter is Paul’s affectionate brotherhood with the slave, now a Christian. After long centuries of the toleration of slavery within Christianity, Christians will realise that the affection and brotherhood here expressed make slavery among Christians intolerable. A further step taken later will be that any enslavement of human beings is incompatible with Christianity, and that all human beings must be treated as brothers and sisters, equal before the Lord. It is a classic case of the slow deepening of the understanding of Christian morality.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33**

 Jesus does not pull his punches, and here delivers a series of devastating body-blows to anyone who is looking for easy discipleship. All through this journey up to Jesus’ own death at Jerusalem the cost of discipleship has been a recurrent theme: ‘Let the dead bury their dead’, the Parable of the Rich Fool, ‘From one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded’, ‘Father against son, son against father’, and now ‘Hate father and mother’ and ‘Give up all your possessions’. A certain amount of the vigour of these demands may be attributed to a Semitic/Hebraic mode of expression, ease of superlatives and lack of comparatives, but there is no doubt about the absolute demands made on the disciple. When Jesus made these demands he knew what lay ahead of him, and was only asking his disciples to follow his own course. We must count the cost before beginning to build the tower. Most of us have, of course, already started to build the tower. There is no turning back from the plough, only prayer for a courage and loyalty which exceed our own powers.

*[The above Commentary by Fr David Lawrence-March previously apeared in the Trinity Newsletter for 4th September 2022.]*