**TRINITY**

The Newsletter of **Holy Trinity Church Ilkeston**

**Sunday 28th September 2025**

**St Michael and all Angels**

**11am Parish Mass  Celebrant and Preacher Fr Neil Broadbent**

**Music at Holy Trinity this morning:**

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

**Introit**  336 Angel voices ever singing

**Gradual** 486 We have a Gospel to proclaim

**Offertory** 475 Ye Holy Angels bright

**Communion**  308 Ye we adore, O hidden Saviour, thee

**Recessional** 349 Come let us join our cheerful songs

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

**Tuesday 1st October 9.30 am Mass**

**Thursday 3rd October 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 5th October 2025 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**11.00am THE PARISH MASS Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Stephen Jones**

**Harvest Festival - Brownie Parade**

We are pleased to welcome Fr Neil Broadbent as our Celebrant and Preacher this morning.

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**

Meetinsgs now continue on the fourth Wednesday of the month, the next falling on the 22nd October. I hope 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, and there are just a few tickets left, so don’t delay!  Donations of suitable raffle prizes will be much appreciated. **Rosemary**

**Church Flower Fund**

Now that the weather has turned cooler, and fresh flower displays last better, worshippers at Holy Trinity may notice that our Flower Team have begun replacing some silk flower displays with fresh ones.

The Flower Fund is, however, running low and any contributions, however small, would be greatly appreciated.

**A very generous donation**

We should like to express our very grateful thanks to Don who is selling off his stock of wood turned items and has very generously donated the proceeds of recent sales, amounting to £80, to Holy Trinity church funds.

**See of Oswestry North Midlands Regional Festival Saturday 18th October 12 noon**

This Festival will be take the form of a Mass at which the Principal Celebrant and Preacher will be the Bishop of Oswestry. It will take place at St Luke's, Parliament Street, Derby DE22 3RT and will be followed by a shared lunch.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

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

All who have recently died, especially Ann Riley; please remember also those whose anniversary of death falls this week: Gary Spibey, Doreen Webster, Edith Howling, Robert Howling, Robert Cooke, Lewis Scattergood, Florence Buttery, Hilda Baker, and Emma Fox.

**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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Andrew Smith writes:**

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**The Theme of the Readings: The Call to Repentance**

The readings are a continuation of the lesson from last Sunday. In today's readings, God calls us to repent our sins, to imitate Jesus in our lives, and heed the warning of the One whom God raised from the dead because the selfish and thoughtless who ignore the plight of human suffering will be held accountable.

In the First Reading **(Amos 6:1, 4-7)**, the prophet Amos accuses the rich and powerful of Israel of living in luxury while being blind to the destitute, disadvantaged and poor. He warns that their froward self-indulgence and intentional disregard for their Covenant obligations to the poor, destitute and disadvantaged will bring about the collapse of the Kingdom of Israel. Have they forgotten that God based His promised blessings of temporal prosperity and protection for Israel upon Covenant faithfulness and obedience in demonstrating the love of God and neighbour? What good will material wealth do for them when God lifts His hand of protection and they find themselves overrun by their many enemies and invaders who will confiscate all their possessions?

The Responsorial Psalm **(Ps.146)** reminds us that the Lord gives food to the hungry through the bounties of nature. However, He also depends on the hands of the wealthy to distribute it equitably, just as He expects those who love Him to extend His love to those in need. This Psalm presents the theme that God deserves our trust, given all the good things God does.

In the Epistle **(1 Tim 6:11-16)**, Paul writes to Timothy, encouraging him like a coach urging on his best athlete. Paul calls Timothy a ‘man of God,’ a title that emphasizes the office Timothy holds as God's representative to the Christian community at Ephesus and the demands of that office. ‘Man of God’ is an Old Testament title

reserved for Moses, David, and the prophets who were God's representatives to His people. Paul tells Timothy that being an effective Christian leader requires total dedication to God and a fearless witness for Christ. This dedication, Paul says, should operate from faith in God, obedience to the commandments, humility to the will of God, as well as an awareness of the knowledge that Jesus will return.

The First Reading is an introduction to the Gospel Reading **(Lk. 16:19-31)**, where Jesus tells the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. The story illustrates His desire for justice and reflects His concern and promised blessings for the faithful poor, and His judgment of the cold-hearted rich in His Sermon on the Plain. The contrast in the parable is between the rich man who had everything he could want in life and Lazarus, a poor man who had nothing. Ironically, when both men died, their conditions were reversed. In death, God gave Lazarus the justice he lacked in life as he awaited the coming of the Messiah in the company of the great cloud of witnesses. However, the rich man suffered in torment for his sins. It is a reversal of condition that Jesus uses to serve as a warning to the Pharisees of His time and to everyone who despises and neglects the poor, afflicted and disadvantaged while only caring about the temporal and with no regard for the eternal. Our actions be they collective or individual, small or great, directly affect our life in the world to come.

St Oscar Romero of El Salvador said, ‘When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties. We know that every effort to better society, especially when poverty, hunger, and disadvantage are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.’

**Who are the Archangels?: Andrew Smith writes:**

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On 29th September, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Archangels: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. The Feast of the Archangels is sometimes referred to as ‘Michaelmas’ and has been celebrated since the 5th century. Originally, it commemorated only St. Michael, but the 1969 revision of the Roman calendar combined the feasts of Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael into one celebration. This day invites us to reflect specifically on the role of the heavenly beings in God’s plan and in our lives.

The Church affirms the existence of angels as ‘a truth of faith,’ these spiritual, non-corporeal beings are part of God’s creation, serving as His messengers and ministers. St. Augustine in his book The City of God writes ‘Angel is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is ‘spirit’; if you seek the name of their office, it is ‘angel.’’’ Angels possess both intelligence and will and are immortal, personal creatures. Their primary purpose is to glorify God and serve as his messengers. Among the angels, archangels hold a special place, entrusted with the most important tasks in God’s plan of salvation, they have specific and unique roles in salvation history. There are three named Archangels and we find a fourth, St Raphael, in the Book of Tobit from the Apocrypha and it is Archangel St Raphael who makes reference to there being seven Archangels.

**St. Michael: The Warrior of God**

St. Michael, whose name means ‘who is like God,’ is portrayed in scripture as the chief of the angels. In the Book of Daniel, he is described as ‘one of the chief princes’ **(Dan 10:13)**, suggesting his elevated status among the legions of angels. Michael’s famous role is as the leader of God’s armies against the forces of evil in the Book of Revelation. This powerful image of St. Michael as a spiritual warrior has made him a symbol of protection and strength for the faithful. The well-known Prayer to St Michael, composed by Pope Leo XIII after having a vision of evil spirits attacking the Church, asks for his intercession ‘...against the wickedness and snares of the devil.’

St. Michael’s battle against evil reminds us of our own call to resist temptation and stand firm in our faith. As St. Paul writes in his Epistle to the Ephesians, ‘For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens.’ We can draw strength from St. Michael’s example, knowing that with God’s grace, we too, can overcome the challenges we face in our lives.

**St. Gabriel: The Messenger of God**

St. Gabriel, whose name means ‘God is my strength,’ appears in both the Old and New Testaments as God’s messenger for pivotal moments in salvation history. In the Book of Daniel, Gabriel interprets visions and prophecies; and of course, we can’t forget the time Gabriel delivered the most important message in human history when he appeared to the Virgin Mary in St Luke’s Gospel, announcing that she would conceive and bear the Son of God. This moment, known as the Annunciation, is a cornerstone of our Faith, marking the beginning of the Incarnation. Gabriel’s own words, ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you,’ form part of the most beloved ‘Hail Mary’ prayer and are repeated every day by Catholics all around the world.

St. Gabriel’s role as a messenger teaches us the importance of listening to God’s voice and being open to his will. Mary’s response to Gabriel’s message was, ‘Let it be done to me according to your word,’ and serves as a model of perfect obedience and trust in God. We ought to strive to cultivate a spirit of openness and obedience to God’s will in our own lives, always ready to hear and respond to His call.

**St. Raphael: The Healer of God**

St. Raphael, whose name means ‘God heals,’ is prominently featured in the Apocrypha but especially the Book of Tobit. Raphael accompanies Tobias on a journey, helping him to heal his father’s blindness and to free Sarah from a demon. Raphael reveals himself as ‘one of the seven Archangels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord,’ giving us a glimpse into a heavenly hierarchy. His role as a healer has made him the patron saint of travellers, the blind, and medical workers.

St. Raphael’s ministry of healing reminds us of God’s desire for our wholeness and well-being. It also teaches us the importance of accompanying others on their journeys, just as St Raphael accompanied Tobias. We can follow Raphael’s example by being instruments of God’s healing love in the world, offering comfort and support to those in need.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Archangels, we remember that these powerful spiritual beings are not distant or aloof but are, instead, actively involved in our lives and in the unfolding of God’s plan. We are invited to develop a relationship with the Archangels, calling upon their intercession and striving to imitate their virtues; doing so will open ourselves more fully to God’s abundant gifts of grace and love aligning us more closely with His divine will.