

The Church of Saint Laurence, Upminster

# PORCHTALK

30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 *First Sunday of Christmas*



**Welcome to Saint Laurence.** Adventurers' groups will not be meeting today but activity packs and children's service books are available from the back of church. You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Main Hall after the 9.30 Mass.

<b>Today</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	Said Evensong	6.30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Staff Meeting, Parish Office	9.10 am
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Mass	11.00 am
<i>Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus</i>		
<b>Friday</b>	Coffee Morning, Main Hall	10.30 am
4 <sup>th</sup> January		
<b>Next Sunday</b>	Holy Communion	8.00 am
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Procession and Sung Parish Mass	9.30 am
<i>Epiphany</i>	Said Evensong	6.30 pm

**Evensong readings this Sunday:** Isaiah 61; Galatians 3:27-4:7. **Mass readings next Sunday:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12. **Evensong readings next Sunday:** Baruch 4:36-end of 5; John 2:1-11.

**Morning and Evening Prayer:** 8.45 am Tuesday to Thursday, 5 pm Wednesday

**Saturday Pathsweepers:** Brabner, Skinner **Coffee:** Doreen, Alison and Joanne

*Please let Deborah know of anyone who is ill or in need of a pastoral visit, or housebound and wanting to receive the sacrament at home – or if you would appreciate a conversation with or visit from her for any reason.*

## NOTICES

**We welcome and thank:** Fr Mike Power from St Edward's, Romford who is presiding and preaching at 8am and Fr Chris Bishop who will be presiding and preaching at 9.30 this morning.

**Please note for Tuesday** this week there is no Morning Prayer and the Parish Office will be closed.

**Please renew** any short term prayer requests for January by completing a form and leaving it inside the white box on the top shelf of the cabinet at the back of church.

**Thank you to all** who supported the Souper Thursdays. The amount raised for the Church Building Improvements Fund will be announced next week.

**Also a big thank you** to everybody who gave of their time and energy during Advent and over Christmas to make St Laurence's a welcoming and friendly place to come and worship God.

**Work on creating** a Children's Corner will start in church on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January for approximately one week.

**AT THE MASS**  
30<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
*First Sunday of Christmas*

**Introit** 395

**Setting** Mass of St Thomas – *David Thorne*

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual hymn**      Thou who wast rich

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
all for love's sake becamest poor;  
thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man;  
stooping so low, but sinners raising  
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** *Plainsong*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke 2:41-end**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Offertory hymn** 477

**Communion** 527  
**hymns** 75

**Final hymn** 109

**Organ voluntary** Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr BWV 715 – *J.S. Bach*

## **JANUARY - CHARITY OF THE MONTH: TAPESTRY**

(Gift Aid envelopes will be available from 6<sup>th</sup> January)

Tapestry is a social business and registered charity that is committed to supporting people, helping them to remain independent and live a positive, fulfilling life.

They work to prevent people from going into nursing and residential care homes, especially if their current level of care means that they would be better off remaining at home. They supply personalised and tailored care to people who need practical support to maintain their own independence. And give support to the families and friends of people who need care by providing friendly, impartial advice and opportunities for them to maintain their skills and get respite from their loved ones when this is needed.

Tapestry have specially-adapted centres where they run projects and activities to help people socialize and remain independent. Transport can be provided and they are involved in local projects, such as the Havering Community Garden, as well as national schemes like the National Cholesterol Month.

### **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**The prayer lists are updated on the first day of each month. If you would like to renew or add a name to the list, please fill in a form at the back of church and leave it in the Prayer Box.** *Those on the list for Special Concern will be held in our prayers every Sunday and will be mentioned by name either at 8.00 am or 9.30 am. Please remember all in your prayers throughout the week.*

#### **Special concern:**

(8.00 am) Jim Turner, Thelma, Edgar Iffland, Nicola Seal, Michael McSweeney, Lorna Wells, Tracy Pepper, Lance Jackson, Matthew Smith, Denise Comer.

(9.30 am) Yvonne Rattley, Helen Thomson, Pat Silverlock, Agnes Trievner, Julie, Pam, Nick Hale, Margaret Roome, Giles Jackson, Hayden Keeling.

**Those receiving Home Communion this week:** Susan Drozdowski, Denise Comer.

**The departed:** Kevin Bland.

**Anniversaries:** Donald Carter, Ken Groves, Phyllis Spilling, Irene Littlewood, Lena Spicer, William Gosland, John Iffland, Gina Dunlop, Ted Sawyer, John Fowler.

**Please remember those who mourn.**

*If you would like a name added to the Anniversary list please speak to the Parish Office.*

