

**Sunday 7 October 2018**

**St Laurence**

**FIRST READING**

**Nahum 2:1, 3:1-3, 6-7**

A reading from the book of the prophet Nahum

A shatterer has come up against you.

Guard the ramparts;

watch the road;

gird your loins;

collect all your strength

Ah! City of bloodshed,

utterly deceitful, full of booty—

no end to the plunder!

The crack of whip and rumble of wheel,

galloping horse and bounding chariot!

Horsemen charging,

flashing sword and glittering spear,

piles of dead,

heaps of corpses,

dead bodies without end—

they stumble over the bodies!

I will throw filth at you

and treat you with contempt,

and make you a spectacle.

Then all who see you will shrink from you and say,

'Nineveh is devastated; who will bemoan her?'

Where shall I seek comforters for you?

**Sunday 7 October 2018**

**St Laurence**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 2:1-10**

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him[b] will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

**Sunday 14 October 2018**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**READING**

**Hebrews 4.12–16**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The word of God is living and active,  
sharper than any two-edged sword,  
piercing until it divides soul from spirit,  
joints from marrow;  
it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

And before him no creature is hidden,  
but all are naked and laid bare  
to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest  
who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,  
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are,  
yet without sin.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy  
and find grace to help in time of need.

**Sunday 21 October 2018**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 53.4–12**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so  
he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no  
violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his  
days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their  
iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the  
strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Sunday 21 October 2018**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 5.1–10**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Every high priest chosen from among mortals  
is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf,  
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward,  
since he himself is subject to weakness;  
and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins  
as well as for those of the people.

And one does not presume to take this honour,  
but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest,  
but was appointed by the one who said to him,

'You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you';

as he says also in another place,  
'You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.'

In the days of his flesh,  
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,  
with loud cries and tears,  
to the one who was able to save him from death,  
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered;  
and having been made perfect,  
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,  
having been designated by God a high priest  
according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Sunday 28 October 2018**

**ST SIMON AND ST JUDE**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 28.14-16**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Hear the word of the LORD,  
you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem.  
Because you have said,  
'We have made a covenant with death,  
and with Sheol we have an agreement;  
when the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not come to us;  
for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter';  
therefore thus says the Lord GOD,  
See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone,  
a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation:  
'One who trusts will not panic.'

**Sunday 28 October 2018**

**ST SIMON AND ST JUDE**

**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 2.19–22**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

You are no longer strangers and aliens,  
but you are citizens with the saints  
and also members of the household of God,  
built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.  
In him the whole structure is joined together  
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;  
in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

**Confirmation**

**Sunday 4 November 2018**

**Readers and Readings for Confirmation to be arranged**

**Remembrance Sunday**

**Sunday 11 November 2018**

**Main service at Cenotaph in Astley Park so no one required for anything at 10am**

First Reading

Daniel 12.1-3

A reading from the book of Daniel.

In the third year of King Cyrus a word was revealed to Daniel.

'At that time Michael, the great prince,  
the protector of your people, shall arise.

There shall be a time of anguish,  
such as has never occurred  
since nations first came into existence.

But at that time your people shall be delivered,  
everyone who is found written in the book.

Many of those who sleep  
in the dust of the earth shall awake,  
some to everlasting life,  
and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,  
and those who lead many to righteousness,  
like the stars for ever and ever.'

Second Reading

Hebrews 10.11–14, (15–18), 19–25

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Every priest stands day after day at his service,  
offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins.  
But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,  
'he sat down at the right hand of God,' and since then has been waiting  
'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.'  
For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

.....

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence  
to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,  
by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain  
(that is, through his flesh),  
and since we have a great priest over the house of God,  
let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience  
and our bodies washed with pure water.  
Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful.  
And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,  
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,  
but encouraging one another,  
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

First Reading

Daniel 7.9–10, 13–14

A reading from the book of Daniel.

As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne,  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousand served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.  
The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

A reading from the book of Revelation

Grace to you and peace from God  
who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,  
the firstborn of the dead,  
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.  
To him who loves us and freed us  
from our sins by his blood,  
and made us to be a kingdom,  
priests serving his God and Father,  
to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.  
Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.  
So it is to be. Amen.  
'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God,  
who is and who was and who is to come,  
the Almighty.

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

First Reading

Advent Sunday

(Jeremiah 33. 14-16)

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Second Reading

Advent Sunday

(1 Thessalonians 3. 9-11)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December

All Together Service

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

First Reading

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

(Zephaniah 3. 14 – 20)

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December

Second Reading

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

(Philippians 4. 4-7)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December

First Reading

(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)

(Micah 5. 2-5a)

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

The Lord says to his people:

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Second Reading

(4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Hebrews 10 : 5 – 10)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

When Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.  
Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Midnight Mass**

**First Reading**

**(Isaiah 52: 7 – 10)**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has  
redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Midnight Mass**

**Second Reading**

**(Hebrews 1 : 1-4)**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

This is the word of the Lord.

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Day

First Reading

(Isaiah 9 : 2 - 7)

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Day**

**Second Reading**

**(Titus 2 : 11 – 14)**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Sunday, 30th December**

**First Reading**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**

**(1 Samuel 2 : 18 – 20. 26**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

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.

**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> December**

**Second Reading**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**(1 Colossians 3 : 12 – 17)**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Colossians

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.**