

St. Theresa of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex, CM24 8LQ

Parish Priest: **Father John Garrett**

Tel: 01279 814349,

E-mail: Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.sttheresasstansted.org

Sunday
4th December
2016

2nd Sunday of Advent
(Year A)



Sat 3 rd December	10.00 – 11.00am †6.00pm	Confessions People of the Parish
Sun 4 th December	†10.00am	Colin Warnett RIP 10 th anniversary (M Warnett)
Mon 5 th December	†9.30am	
Tues 6 th December	†9.30am	
Wed 7 th December No morning Mass	1.30pm 2.30pm	Rosary Group Wednesday Club
Thurs 8 th December	†9.30am	
Fri 9 th December	†9.30am	
Sat 10 th December	10.00 – 11.00am †6.00pm	Confessions Maria Anna Fruci & Maria Mastrandrea RIP

† Masses



Please join us for tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday **4th December** in the parish centre.

To place a notice in this newsletter, please contact Anna on Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

2nd Sunday of



Parish News & Events

Funeral services at St. Theresa's

- **Dominic Donahue** - On Wednesday **14th December**, there will be a Requiem Mass for at 10.30am.
- **Violet Thornberry** - There will be a funeral service on **19th December** at 12.00noon. All are welcome at the church but the cremation will be private.

Churches Together Celebration of Christmas



Join us for Stansted's traditional village event Carol Service here at St. Theresa's church at 3pm on Saturday **17th December**.

If you would like to join the choir for this lovely festive celebration you will be very welcome at rehearsals on Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December in the Church at 7.30pm.

Help Needed

As you can see from the post above, on **17th December** our church is once again hosting the Village Celebration of Christmas. We will need to serve refreshments in the Parish Centre after the Service. If you are able to do this please let Eileen or Brian Quinn know on 812109. Also we need help to put out chairs at 8.30am and to put them away after the Service. If you can help in any way, please contact David Morson on 850209.

Children's Service and Christmas Party



This year's Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday **18th December** at 2.00pm and will be followed by the Christmas party in the Parish Centre. All our very welcome to the service but please let us know if your child / children wish to attend the party so that we cater for everyone. Please email us at helenhall5@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01842 879766 with your child's name and age as soon as possible. A voluntary donation of £3 can be given on the day of the party. We have been very fortunate in previous years that Fr. Christmas has found time to visit. There are invitations on the notice board in the entrance with the details.

To place a notice in this newsletter, please contact Anna on Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Diocesan Second collections

At recent Finance Committee meetings concern has been expressed at the number of mandatory Diocesan collections we are now asked to have.

In most months we are asked to hold two such second collections and in some months three. The Finance Committee felt this was placing an unreasonable burden on parishioners and asked the Diocesan Board of Finance to limit the number of second collections to one a month or the occasional two in one month. The Diocesan Board replied that although the matter had been raised at their meetings their hands were tied as these collections were agreed at national level at the Bishop's conference.

In addition to the Diocesan collections the parish is frequently approached by other parties such as SPUC, various missionaries etc to hold collections for their particular cause, currently we are declining such requests in view of the number and frequency of the Diocesan collections.

All the various beneficiaries are worthy causes and trying to differentiate is very difficult and the parish finance committee has decided that we would reintroduce the monthly second collection on the first Sunday of the month commencing January 2017 – no specific collections will be held for the Diocesan second collections except for: Lent Fast Day – CAFOD, Sick Clergy and Harvest Fast Day.

Gift aid contributors

Please use the "Monthly Parish Project" envelopes for regular monthly collection on the first Sunday of the month.

Should you wish to make a specific contribution to any of the other causes supported please use the appropriate Gift Aid envelope and the amount will be added to the donation the parish will make to each of the various beneficiaries.

Your Annual gifts at Christmas and Easter will remain unchanged.



The Giving Machine update

Since I spoke on Sunday about generating funds for our church by using the Giving Machine, 3 more people have signed up. On Sunday, we had made £1.71. By Friday, we had made £3.52!

These days it's a fact that most of us do at least some of our shopping online. Going through the Giving Machine website won't cost you a penny so this is an ideal way to generate much needed funds for our church. £3.52 may be a small amount but it is a start. If you are doing any Christmas shopping, an online grocery shop, booking a holiday or buying insurance, please go to the Giving Machine first and put our church down as a cause. Please see the posters on the noticeboards or go to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

Christmas card collection

Fr. John has asked that this year's Christmas cards for collection should be left in the church [porch. In this connection, a box has been placed in the porch and parishioners are asked to place their cards in the A-Z index by surname only. Many thanks.



St. Francis Leprosy fund

Thank you for your continued donations to our leprosy fund. The bottle was emptied again and £140 sent to the St. Francis mission. Keep putting in your loose change.

I need your pictures!

Please remember to send in your children's Advent and Christmas pictures so they can be used in the newsletter. I need pictures of the Advent wreath and nativity picture as well as your depictions of the Wise men arriving in Bethlehem.

Either place in the parish post box in the foyer or email to Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

Local & Diocesan News & Events

Encounter Group

Encounter meet next Friday **9th December** at Windhill Churches Centre for 'Wake up and stand ready! Are we looking forward with great expectation?' Talk & discussion on how we 'do' Advent.

10.00am coffee, 10.30am meeting opens, 12.30pm Advent Lunch: Bring seasonal food to share 2.00pm day ends. All welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060

Message from Bishop Alan on Brentwood Catholic Children's Society



"As you come to the Crib this Christmas please pray for all the children in your parish community who are in need. Please also pray for the work of bccs as they try to help so many children around our diocese. They do this work on behalf of us all and as a witness to our shared faith and your prayers are a great support."

Please see the copy of Christmas 2016 bccs News on our Diocesan notice board.

Green Skips, Stansted

The final green skip for this year will be on **11th December**.

To place a notice in this newsletter, please contact Anna on Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org