

St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Church

Stansted Mountfitchet

**Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

**Sunday 16th December 2018**



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| Date | Time | Intentions  |
| Saturday **15th Dec** | **†6.00pm** | **People of the Parish** |
| Sunday**16th Dec**  | **†10.00am** | **Mike & Jim Cassidy RIP**(Eilish) |
| Monday **17th Dec** | **No Mass on Mondays** |
| Tuesday **18th Dec** | **†9.30am** |  |
| Wednesday **19th Dec Wednesday Club** | **†9.30am****2.30pm** |  |
| Thursday **20th Dec** | **†9.30am** | **Rose & Tucksy Clarke**(Clarke family) |
| Friday **21st Dec** | **†9.30am** |   |
| Saturday **22nd Dec** | **†6.00pm** | **People of the Parish** |



**Christmas tea and coffee after Sunday Mass on 16th December.**

**Please join us!**





**Today’s Readings** can be found on page **87** of the Parish Mass book.

The **Communion Antiphon** is on page **89**.

**Christmas offering** At Christmas, the collection money raised is our personal gift to our priest for his services to the parish. Please remember to give generously at this time of year.

**Flowers for Church at Christmas** As usual, there will be a collection for the Christmas flowers THIS WEEKEND after Mass

**Children’s Christmas Service & Party** Our Children's Christmas Service is this Sunday **16th December** at 2:00pm and will be followed by the Christmas party in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome to the service. This is when the children of the parish get to place the figures in the crib. It’s always a very special start to the Christmas season. Please let us know if your child wishes to attend the party so that we may cater for everyone. Please 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 at the back of the church with further details.

**Christmas card box** there is now a box for Christmas cards in the porch. If you have any cards for other parishioners, please place them in the A-Z index box in the church porch. Please check of there are any cards for you and take them with you.

**Make your voice heard** We need to grow our existing group of Readers, so young or old or somewhere in the middle, if you have a good clear voice and would like to be involved with ‘The Liturgy of the Word’, please contact Tony Rhead, Des Connors or Anna Watkins or by email at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org with cc to aksrhead@msn.com to register your interest.

 “Gaudete!” “Rejoice!” This, the 3rd Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The 3rd candle of the Advent wreath is pink, or rose, as are the priest’s vestments, and signifies Joy. “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice,” we will sing. Let us lift up our voices with joy. “Shout for joy,” starts the 1st reading. “Sing and shout for joy” we sing in the psalm response. The 2nd reading tells us why, “be happy in the Lord… the Lord is very near.”

So let not our hand, (or voices,) be limp (1st reading), Christ is near.

Our Christmas Eve Mass is at 7pm. There will be very few of the choir present. If you feel like helping to lead the carols come and sit by the organ. There will be no commitment to being in the choir! Any children who know they will be there and want to participate in the Mass please come and have a word with me.  Frances.

 **Christmas Mass times at St. Theresa’s Church**



**Children’s Christmas Service & Party**

**Sunday 16th December** at 2pm (party must be booked in advance).

**Christmas Eve**

**Monday 24th December** at7.00pm

Family Christmas Eve Mass

**Christmas Day**

**Tuesday 25th December** at10.00am

Christmas Day Mass

**There will be no Mass on St. Stephen’s Day (26th December)**

**Food Bank** Thank you for your very generous donations for the food bank. We now have enough to keep us going for a while so will finish collecting until next needed.

Parish Priest: **Father John Garrett**

Tel: 01279 814349, E-mail: Stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

[www.sttheresastansted.org](http://www.sttheresastansted.org)

 St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

**Local Events this Christmas**

**Herts & Soul Community Choir** on Sunday **16th December** at St. John’s Church at 6.30pm.

**Church's Together Celebration of Christmas** Please join together with other Church's in the village for Carols, Readings and Music at St John's Church at 3pm on Saturday **22nd December** for this wonderful traditional witness of the beautiful feast of Our Lord's Birth.



**Village Carol Singing** on Sunday **23rd December**. Meet at Broome End Care Home at 4pm.

**Catholic History Walks** in London on Wednesday **2nd January** 2019, at 3pm. Join us for seasonal walks through Westminster and Victoria, taking in Christmas trees and crib-scenes. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

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| **Food Basket** This Christmas, you could support those in need in Syria by giving a [**food basket**](https://acnuk.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25a175338ce0562b9d08ed926&id=c3dd41e68c&e=d5ee049ee4) with enough essentials to last a family for a month. Our baskets include foods such as rice, fish, chicken and canned goods. Food is often hard to come by, with many families only having enough to feed their children. So for many, these food baskets are their lifeline and give them the courage to continue to rebuild their lives. **"We see Jesus in the faces of Syrian children still marked by the war that, in these years, has caused such bloodshed in that country" Pope Francis.****Whatever you can give,** however big or small your donation is, you can [**give a food basket**](https://acnuk.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25a175338ce0562b9d08ed926&id=a38dd082ae&e=d5ee049ee4) and directly offer love and hope to families struggling to piece their lives back together. |

**Wishing you all many blessings this Christmas and a very happy New Year!**