

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 11th AUGUST 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

Priest in Charge: Fr Lee Bennett.

Parish Deacon: Rvd Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Gospel: Luke 12:32-48
You too must stand ready.

Page 121 in the Mass Book

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1st Reading: | Wisdom 18:6-9 |
| Psalm 32: | <i>Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.</i> |
| 2nd Reading: | Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19 |
| Gospel Acclamation: | <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!</i> |
| Communion Antiphon: | <i>The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world.</i> |

This Week's Good News



Dear Friends,

In Today's Gospel, Jesus tells us to remain vigilant. We know neither the day or the hour when he will return. The Lord will come on the second or third watch, and he asks us to be ready for that day.

For those who have turned their backs on God, he will return completely unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. For the Christian, when the Lord arrives, he should find us prepared, awake and vigilant. He should find us giving due value to earthly affairs, but remembering that none of this is permanent or of lasting value.

We need to be vigilant in our love towards others and to remember the little things we do that may seem of no consequence to us, but to others may be the difference between faith or disillusionment. We can do this by a daily examination of conscience, at the end of a day's toil, a moment to sit in silence and reflect on how we have served God that day.

We are vigilant when we deepen our daily examination of conscience. To take a look at how we behave towards ourselves and others. To conquer those failings and temptations we all face daily.

St Frances De Sales emphasises the importance of conquering in small temptations. *'it's easy to avoid homicide, but how difficult to avoid anger over little things. It is easy not to spread false rumours about our neighbour, but difficult to avoid lying in our conversations.'*

When Jesus tells his disciples to be ready, to keep awake, he is calling us to live each day in faithfulness, attentive to his promise to return in glory.

Deacon Des.

Prayer & Liturgy

| Date | Intentions | Mass Time |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Saturday 10 th August | James Braeckman RIP (M&T Rhead) | †6.00pm |
| Sunday 11 th August | People of the Parish | †10.00am |
| Thursday 15 th August | Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy day of obligation | †8.00am †8.00pm |

James Braeckman, reception and Funeral Mass. There will be a vigil with reception of his body into the Church on Tuesday 13th of August at 6pm.

The Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 14th August at 10:00am followed immediately by the Rite of Committal at St. Peters Cemetery, Ugley.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Every second Thursday of the month. The next Exposition will be on Thursday 29th August at 8pm.

Intercessory Prayer Group. 3rd Friday of each month. Next meeting Friday 16th August 7.30-8.30pm. A time to bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. If you would like prayers said but cannot make it, feel free to e mail Deacon Des with your prayer requests.

Admission to Hospital. Catholics in hospital are unlikely to receive an automatic visit from the Catholic Chaplain. If someone is sick in hospital, please let Fr Lee and/or Deacon Des know so that your loved one can be visited and receive Holy Communion and any other sacraments from the Chaplain.

Christian Meditation. Every Wednesday evening in St John's Church, 7-745pm.

Our Parish Prayers this week

James Braeckman

Eternal rest grant unto them O' Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

Father John is now back resident in Conewood Manor, please keep him in your prayers.

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation 2020: An initial meeting will be arranged and announced shortly. I have been spoken to by a couple of people wishing to be confirmed next year. Can I request please that anyone wishing to be put forward as a candidate for confirmation, e mail myself (Deacon Des), with name, age, (must be in Year 10 for the academic year 2019-2020) school attending, and date of Holy Communion and where it took place.

RCIA: 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults'. The course will begin on **Sunday 15th September at 12 noon** and will consist of 25 weekly sessions lasting 1 hour. If you are thinking of becoming a Catholic please contact Deacon Des.

Baptism Course: Please note that before a baptism can be arranged, the baptism course must be completed. The next baptism course will be held on **Wednesday 4th and Friday 13th September 7.30-8.30pm**. To enrol on the course please e-mail Deacon Des.

Sacrament of Marriage: Catholics must approach the Parish Priest / Deacon, at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Home Visits for the Sick and Housebound: Please let us know if anyone is housebound (even if it is TEMPORARILY) so they can be visited and have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at home.

Mass is regularly broadcasted on the internet from the Catholic Church in Bishops Stortford: <http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford>

Other House Visits: If anyone would like a visit or a house blessing please contact Father Lee / Deacon Des.

Social News and Events

Welcome Fr Lee and Helen

We would like to Welcome Fr Lee and his wife Helen into our Parish. We hope the move goes smoothly and we look forward to having you as part of our community. Thank you for coming to celebrate Mass ahead of your official start time

Parish Social

The Parish Social Committee are planning their next event on occasion of the Feast of St. Theresa, our patron saint. It will be a chance to welcome back our Pilgrims from their trip to Lisieux. The event will be held on Sunday 6th October following Sunday Mass and will involve a buffet lunch and activities. More information to follow. Please get in touch with Anna if you have any ideas or would like to help organise this.

Windmill Fete

Our windmill will be having its annual fete on Monday 26th August. They are looking for items of Bric-a-brac, books and Tombola prizes. Please contact Helen on 01279 814 865 if you can help.

Help Givers

Calais Light We run weekend convoys from Brentwood to volunteer with refugee charities there: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. If you would like to get involved and volunteer, you can sign up at www.calaislight.com. Next trips: 13-15th September, 22-24th Nov & 31 Jan- Feb2.

Volunteers Required

There is a very committed team of parishioners who work hard doing many tasks around the Church. If anyone would like to get involved, perhaps as an usher, tea and coffee rota, cleaning rota or perhaps assisting in setting up the hall for social events, putting out tables and chairs etc, please get in touch.

In particular, we are looking for 2 volunteers to help clean the Church over the summer period between 26th August & 10th September. If you are able to help at all, please contact Anna Watkins at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894 – 1941)

Feast 14th August

Maximilian Kolbe (born Raymund Kolbe) was a Polish Franciscan friar. He had a vision of the Virgin Mary when he was twelve. At some point, after being reprimanded by his mother, he presented himself before the Blessed Virgin Mary and humbly asked her the same question his mother had asked him: “what would become of him if he continued his naughty behavior”.

In response, Our Lady showed him two crowns: one red, the other white. When asked to choose which he preferred, he chose both: to remain pure and undivided in his love for God and the Blessed Virgin, and to be a martyr. Only a saint can make such a generous choice!

In 1910, Raymond Kolbe entered the novitiate of the Conventual Franciscans. Being invested with the Franciscan habit, he was given the new name of “Friar Maximilian Mary.”

Friar Maximilian gradually discovered that in order to be a saint, one must be conformed to the likeness of Christ, a likeness which is authenticated in the perfection of the Immaculate. Throughout his life he actively promoted the Immaculate Virgin Mary and is known as the Apostle of Consecration to Mary.

On February 17, 1941, Father Maximilian was arrested by the Nazis for a second time. He would translate his theological and spiritual insights into practical words and actions for his fellow inmates, by tangibly showing that there is God. Love and hope exist even in the midst of horrific genocide in the camps of Auschwitz.

Father Maximilian volunteered, in a heroic act of charity, to be the victim in place of a stranger who was a family man. The result of this self-offering was that Father Maximilian would be assigned to the infamous starvation bunker where he would slowly but surely die: “no greater love than this, that a man lays down his life for his friend” (Jn 15:12).

On the vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, after two weeks of starvation, Father Maximilian’s ordeal was brought to an end by an injection of carbolic acid. Out of ten men, he was the last to die, very providentially on the feast of Our Lady’s Assumption into heaven!

Pope John Paul II canonised Father Kolbe on the 10th October 1982.

St. Maximilian Kolbe is venerated as the patron saint of families, political prisoners, of amateur radio operators, of drug addicts and of the pro-life movement.

Liturgical Calendar

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 12th August | Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious |
| 13th August | Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs |
| 14th August | Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr |
| 15th August | THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy day of obligation) |
| 16th August | Saint Stephen of Hungary |
| 17th August | Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 18th August | 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME |

St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Church

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted

Tel.No. 01279 814349 E-mail stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

<https://www.sttheresastansted.org/>