

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 8th September 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

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Parish Deacon: Rvd Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

None of you can be my disciple unless he gives all his possessions.

Mass book page 133

1st Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18

Psalm 89: *O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, we see another example of the harsh sayings of Jesus. This Lukan focus on the cost of discipleship and renouncing of possessions continues in the same vein from the Gospel passages we have heard over the last few weeks.

Just as when Jesus said that he had 'come to bring fire to the earth' (Lk.12 49:53), here we see Jesus telling the crowds who follow him as he makes his way to the cross in Jerusalem, that one cannot be a disciple of his unless he first hates his father, mother, wife and children, and indeed his own life.

He makes it clear that the cost of discipleship will require sacrifice. It will require the disciple to renounce his own life and take up his cross and follow Jesus, wherever that may lead.

Jesus is not advocating that his disciples seek division or feel hatred towards family. Rather, he is stressing the necessity for a disciple to place allegiance to God over any biological family. This is perhaps the hardest of all possessions to potentially renounce or give up, but there can be no half measures when wishing to follow Christ.

Deacon Des.

Prayer & Liturgy

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Every Thursday at 8pm.

Intercessory Prayer Group. Third Friday of each month. Next meeting Friday 20th September 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.

Christian Meditation. Every Wednesday evening in St John's Church, 7pm -7.45pm.

Extraordinary Ministers Holy Communion & Safeguarding.

Simon Moules, the Diocesan safeguarding co-ordinator will be coming to the parish hopefully on either the 1st week or 2nd week in September. This is to complete the safeguarding paperwork and DBS checks for those ministers who visit the sick and distribute communion outside of Mass.

There are currently no ministers who have a current DBS check and this precludes any visits outside of Mass until the DBS have been completed. Jane will contact those ministers who visit the sick/housebound.

Once this has been complete, Des will discuss with Fr Lee a suitable date to formally commission all EMHC at Mass, and provide everyone with their faculties which last for 5 years.

In addition, DBS checks will have to be completed on all members of the parish who are involved in any aspects of parish work who deal with children and/or vulnerable adults. This will include for example, Alter Servers & Children's liturgy.

St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted is fully committed to ensuring strict adherence to all aspects of safeguarding. Thank You.

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 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.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation takes place half an hour before each Mass. Times are on the last page of the newsletter.

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>

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.

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

Social News and Events

Encounter – Movie time

Next meeting is on the 20th of September at Windhill Churches Centre. We will be showing the movie: “Pope Francis: A man of his word”. Start time: 10:00 am

Pilgrimage to Lisieux

Des will be sending out an itinerary to everyone travelling to Lisieux on the 30th September. He is hoping that it will be by next week but he is waiting on the tour company to finalise his requests to the tour guide in Lisieux.

Please remember to ensure that you bring with you.

1. Current, in date passport.
2. European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
3. Toiletries
4. Euros

Once I have the final itinerary, I will send out to everyone timings for departure from the parish.

Parish Social – Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Parish Social Committee will meet after Sunday Mass on Sunday 8th September. This is to discuss and make preparations for the Feast of St. Theresa celebrations on Sunday 6th October.

Brentwood Diocese – Evangelisation Why/What/How?

When? Friday 4th October, Workshop 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm + Presentation: 6.30 pm - 9 pm

At the Cathedral Hall, Brentwood, Michael Dopp, dedicated to evangelization and mission projects in Europe, Africa, and North America will be guiding us through: What is Evangelization/New Evangelization; Why Evangelize? What holds us back: why we don't evangelize and how to overcome, Witness/Proclamation, Kerygma; Testimony, Genesis Model; Evangelization in a parish, parish renewal. Please bring a packed lunch, refreshments will be provided. Donation of £5 per person for one or both sessions.

Sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com> ID 66879385041 or adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org

APF Red Boxes

Could you please bring in your Red boxes before the end of September for counting and pick up an empty box. It is helpful if you could write your name on the label on the bottom of the box.

Thank you Annette Richardson APF Red Box organiser

Bonus Ball competition

As you may be aware the Parish has a weekly bonus Ball competition based on the Saturday draw of the National Lotto competition. The funds raised are used to fund various good causes the Parish needs, most recently funding the majority of the costs to the parish associated with Deacon Des' ordination.

It is very simple – you are given a number between 1-59 and if that number is drawn on Saturday evening in the Lotto draw you receive a prize of £30. Currently there are 4 numbers available, payment is collected either by monthly standing order from your bank (£4-33) or by half yearly/annual payment (£26/£52)

If you are interested contact John Richardson on 07984402677 or jrichardson1@btconnect.com

Mass Intentions

There is an increased number of weekly Masses, therefore there are more spaces for your intentions. If you would like a Mass intention to be said for a loved one, please complete the envelopes in the church foyer and post them into the adjacent post box.

Harvest Festival

It will be celebrated on the Sunday Mass of the 29th October. Please bring any gifts of food and place them at the altar. Any donations will go to the local Food Bank.

Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor

Feast 13th September

He was born in Antioch, he is generally considered the most prominent doctor of the Greek Church and the greatest preacher ever heard in a Christian pulpit. His sermons and writings did much to explain the Catholic faith and to encourage the living of the Christian life: his eloquence earned him the surname “Chrysostom”, the Greek for “golden mouth”.

After a thorough education, he took up the ascetic life. He was ordained to the priesthood, and became a fruitful and effective preacher. The content of his sermons, his exegesis of Scripture, were never without a point. Sometimes the point stung the high and mighty. Some sermons lasted up to two hours.

His lifestyle at the imperial court was not appreciated by many courtiers. He offered a modest table to episcopal sycophants hanging around for imperial and ecclesiastical favours. Many of his sermons called for concrete steps to share wealth with the poor. The rich did not appreciate hearing from John that private property existed because of Adam’s fall from grace any more than married men liked to hear that they were bound to marital fidelity just as much as their wives were.

He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 397, and was energetic in reforming the ways of the clergy and the laity alike. He incurred the displeasure of the Emperor and was twice forced into exile. When the second exile, to Armenia, had lasted three years, it was decided that he should be sent still further away, but he died on the journey, worn out by his hardships.

Saint John Chrysostom is the Patron Saint of orators, preachers and speakers.

Mass Times

	Times	Intentions
Saturday 7 th September	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 8 th September	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	People of the Parish
Monday 9 th September <i>Saint Peter Claver</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Tuesday 10 th September	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Wednesday 11 th September	Confessions: 12pm Mass: 12.30pm	
Thursday 12 th September <i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>	Confessions: 7pm Mass: 7.30pm Exposition & Benediction: 8pm	
Friday 13 th September <i>Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Saturday 14 th September <i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	People of the Parish
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 15 th September 1 st Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 2 nd Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Gospel: Luke 15:1-32	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	Tony Aldridge (50 years a parishioner)

* Are these new Mass times working for you? Your feedback is important, contact Fr Lee.