

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 22nd September 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ

Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/>

Parish Priest: Fr Lee Bennett frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Deacon: Rvd Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

You cannot be the slave of both God and money.

Mass book page 140

1st Reading:

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 112:

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

2nd Reading:

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart O lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:
(p. 142)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

This Week's Good News

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, Jesus invites us to reflect on two opposing ways of life: the way of the world and that of the Gospel — the worldly spirit is not the spirit of Jesus — and He does so by recounting the parable of the unfaithful and corrupt steward, who is praised by Jesus, despite his dishonesty.

We are called to respond to this worldly astuteness with Christian astuteness, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a matter of departing from the worldly spirit and values, which the devil really favours, in order to live according to the Gospel. How is worldliness manifested? Worldliness is manifested by attitudes of corruption, deception, subjugation, and it constitutes the most ill-chosen road, the road of sin, because one leads you to the other! It's like a chain, even if — it's true — it is generally the easiest road to travel. Instead, the spirit of the Gospel requires a serious lifestyle — serious but joyful, full of joy! — serious and challenging, marked by honesty, fairness, respect for others and their dignity, and a sense of duty. And this is Christian astuteness!

The journey of life necessarily involves a choice between two roads: honesty and dishonesty, fidelity and infidelity, selfishness and altruism, good and evil. You can not waver between one and the other, because they move on different and conflicting forms of logic. It is important to decide which direction to take and then, once you have chosen the right one, to walk it with enthusiasm and determination, trusting in God's grace and the support of His Spirit.

With this teaching, Jesus today urges us to make a clear choice between Him and the worldly spirit, between the logic of corruption, of the abuse of power and greed, and that of righteousness, meekness and sharing. Some people conduct themselves with corruption as they do with drugs: they think they can use it and stop when they want. It starts out small: a tip here, a bribe over there.... And between this and that, one's freedom is slowly lost.

May the Virgin Mary help us to choose at every opportunity and at all costs, the right way, even finding the courage to go against the tide, in order to follow Jesus and his Gospel.

Pope Francis

(Extract of Angelus, Saint Peter's Square, 18 September 2016)

Prayer & Liturgy

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Every Thursday at 8pm. Please note there will be no Exposition or Benediction on Thursday 26th September.

Intercessory Prayer Group. Third Friday of each month. A time to bring our needs and prayers to the Lord. If you would like prayers said but cannot make it, feel free to email Deacon Des with your prayer requests.

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

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.

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.

Social News and Events

Feast Day of Our Lady of Walsingham

Solemnity for members of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. This Tuesday, Fr. Lee will offer the 9.30am Holy Mass in the Ordinariate Use of the Roman Rite. Divine Worship: The Missal. This Mass differs from the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite, in that it is celebrated *Ad Orientem* – with priest and people facing the same way to the East. The language is Elizabethan English, and some of the prayers are slightly different too. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass, there are cards to help is to navigate the liturgy.

Harvest Festival

Next Sunday, 29th September, we are having our Harvest Festival. Please bring any gifts of food and place them at the altar. All donations received will go to our local Food Bank.

Parish Social – Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux

To celebrate the Feast of St. Theresa's Feast on Sunday 6th October, the Social Committee are hosting a social gathering, after Mass. It will be a chance to catch up with our returning pilgrims who have been fortunate enough to walk in the steps of our patron, St Theresa of Lisieux in France. We will have cakes and tea, nibbles and wine. For those of us who could not travel to Lisieux, we will be recreating the pilgrimage through images so please join us.

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.

Catholic Voices

At the heart of Catholic Voices talks is a method called Reframe, which allows Catholics to understand why the criticism of the Church can be intense, and how to identify with the values behind that criticism. It is designed to avoid the defensiveness and self-defeating responses which many Catholics instinctively deploy in the face of hostility.

Save the date for the talks at St Theresa's Parish Hall. On Wednesdays:

20th November - How to defend our faith without raising your voice

27th November - Amoris Laetitia: A Vision for Marriage and the Family

4th December - Mercy and the Migrant Crisis

11th December - What's wrong with Assisted Suicide?

18th of December - Top ten principles for civil communication when defending the faith.

Brentwood Diocese – Café Formation Day – Let it be

Saturday 23rd November from 10am – 3pm.

At Blessed Sacrament, 116 Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford, CM1 2DU.

Sign up: Eventbrite ID 6632301091 or email adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org

An engaging and inspirational day for Deacons, Catechists, Evangelisation and Ongoing Formation Teams, and those who want to grow in faith. Experience the series message of evangelisation with the CaFE team to answer questions. Day input by DAVID PAYNE, Director of Catholic Faith Exploration. Each booked attendee receives a free course book! Places are limited. Event is free, a donation will be taken to cover expenses. Details on <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/events/future-events>

Changes to Mass times

Due to our parishioners leaving on their pilgrimage to Lisieux, Fr. Lee will be holding a Mass at 7am on Monday 30th September.

Fr. Lee will be on the pilgrimage, hence there will be no weekday Masses on Tuesday 1st,

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October. Normal Mass times will resume on Friday 4th October.

Family Fast Day

During next weekend's Masses we will be hearing about how your Family Fast Day donations can help the work of CAFOD overseas.

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. Masses will be said for your relatives and friends even if you are not able to attend the Mass.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

With your generosity we intend to support Teams4U shoeboxes this year. In the past we have filled over 100 boxes with toys, school supplies, gloves, hats and scarves, toothbrushes, soap, sweets etc Age groups 3-12+ years old for the poorest families in Eastern Europe. Teams4U also do HomeBoxes for families. There will be a Notice on the Porch Noticeboard giving details, and a box for your gifts during the month of October. Each box will cost £2.50 to send and we intend having a Quiz in the Parish Centre on Saturday 2nd November 7.00pm to raise the funds for this. We hope you will put this date in your diary! If you have any queries or more information, please see Eileen/Brian Quinn tel: 01279 812109 or Helen Baker Tel: 01279 814865.

Christmas cards

We now have Christmas cards available to buy in the Repository along with other cards and gifts. Please take a look.

APF Red Boxes

Could you please bring in your Red boxes before the end of September for counting and pick up an empty box? Write your name on the label on the bottom of the box.

Thank you. Annette Richardson - APF Red Box organiser

Our Lady of Walsingham

Feast 24th September

The shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk was one of the great pilgrimage centres of mediaeval times. The first account of this shrine appears in a ballad published by Richard Pynson in the late 1400's. The story goes that in the year 1061, during the reign of St. Edward the Confessor, Our Lady appeared in a dream to Richeldis de Faverches, a wealthy young widow in the area of Norfolk. Richeldis had prayed for guidance in her desire to honour Our Lady in some special way, and she saw the dream as the answer to her prayer. Our Blessed Lady took her in spirit to Nazareth and told her to build a replica of the Holy House in Walsingham as a memorial to the Annunciation and, thus, the Incarnation, so that "all who beseech her help shall find succour there". Pynson's ballad claims many miracles "too numerous to mention" to all the faithful who visited the Holy House.

The original shrine was destroyed at the Reformation, but in the 19th and 20th centuries, pilgrimage to Walsingham was revived not only for Catholics but also for Anglicans.

In the year 1226 news of the miraculous happenings at Walsingham reached royal ears in London, Henry III visited the shrine and granted the Canons the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. This Henry visited Walsingham thirteen times, and became a patron, giving many valuable gifts over the years including a gold crown for the image of Our Lady in the Chapel. Several English kings were devotees of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Destroyed in 1538 by Henry VIII, the Shrine has had an eventful history. The modern-day pilgrimage began in 1897, when a group of about fifty Catholics processed from the Church to the recently restored Slipper Chapel, singing and praying as they went. The first Mass since the "Reformation" was offered at the site of the original Priory high altar for American servicemen stationed in East Anglia in 1944. Once again, Walsingham is the official Shrine of Our lady in England, marking that country as the "Dowry of Our Lady".

Mass Times

Saturday 21 st September <i>Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Bridget McCreanor RIP (S Wood)
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 22 nd September	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	People of the Parish
Monday 23 rd September <i>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Tuesday 24 th September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am - 'Ordinariate Use'	Clergy and people of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham
Wednesday 25 th September	Confessions: 12pm Mass: 12.30pm Rosary Group: 1.30pm Wednesday Club: 2pm	
Thursday 26 th September <i>Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs</i>		No Mass, Exposition or Benediction this week
Friday 27 th September <i>Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Saturday 28 th September <i>Saint Wenceslaus (Waclaw), Martyr</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Wedding Anniversary (A & T Aldridge)
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 29 th September 1 st Reading: <i>Amos 6:1,4-7</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>1 Timothy 6:11-16</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 16:19-31</i>	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	

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