

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux*

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Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

*Good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.*

**Mass book page 143**

**1st Reading:** Amos 6:1, 4-7

**Psalm 145:** *My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Timothy 6:11-16

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord. I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's readings speak to us of complacency and injustice. Amos rebukes those who recline on beds of ivory, eating and drinking and dressing in finery. In the Gospel Jesus provides us with the parable of the rich man and the suffering Lazarus at his door. Some with more than they need, and others neglected and on the margins of society. However, Jesus assures us that, in fact, the coming of the Kingdom reverses the balance so that what was up must come down, and vice versa. We are often told that the last will be first and the first last; the poor will have good things and the rich will go away empty; the blind will see and the lame dance; the barren woman will conceive while the mother of many languishes. Tax collectors and prostitutes will enter, and religious folk will find the way barred. The imbalance of the present world will not be dismissed, but only upended.

How often does society look down on those we judge to be unworthy. The homeless person begging for change, the drug addict who cannot get clean. Dorothy Day dealt daily with some of the most unlovable and culpable members of her society. Yet she stressed often to her Catholic Worker community that Christians cannot afford to "adjudicate between the deserving and undeserving poor." As soon as we begin to distinguish between worthy and unworthy persons, we have crossed the demarcation between Christianity and culture. So long as we remain citizens of two kingdoms, temporal and spiritual, we are forced to acknowledge that our two allegiances are in considerable conflict. We just can't be spotless capitalists and good Christians. Sooner or later, we are going to have to establish our ultimate loyalty to one camp or the other.

If we choose Jesus, and I hope many of us do, that means we have to stop questioning if Lazarus at the gate is an alcoholic or an addict; if he dropped out of school or spent time in prison; if he refuses to work because he's lazy or up to no good; in short, we have to refrain from deciding whether or not he is worthy of our concern. The only reason to open our hearts and share our resources with those in need is because Jesus asked us to. One day, we are assured, the last will be first. It would be good if they remembered us kindly when the chasm is reversed.

*Deacon Des*

## Prayer & Liturgy

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

**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

### Harvest Festival

This Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Next Sunday after Mass we will be celebrating the Feast of St. Theresa. Join us for a cold buffet and drinks and take the opportunity to hear from those returning from their pilgrimage to Lisieux and see their photos. If you are able to, please bring along some food or drink to share.

### Children's Liturgy

We will be starting Children's Liturgy again on the first Sunday of each month, starting on the **6<sup>th</sup> October**, when we will be celebrating the Feast of Saint Theresa. Please note that Children's Liturgy is open to all children aged from 4 until they have made their First Holy Communion. We kindly ask that parents of younger children do not use Saint Theresa's room while Children's Liturgy is taking place. You are welcome to use the foyer instead, if necessary. The purpose of Children's Liturgy is for the children to hear the Scripture at an age-appropriate level. Therefore, we ask that the children start Mass in the main church with their families until before the First Reading, when Fr Lee will invite them to go into St Theresa's room. After completing their activities, the children will process to the altar during the Offertory and will then return to their families for the rest of Mass. Thank you.

**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.

## **Changes to Mass times**

Fr. Lee will be holding a Mass at 7am on this Monday, **30<sup>th</sup> September** as our Parishioners leave for their pilgrimage to Lisieux. Fr. Lee will be on the pilgrimage, hence no weekday Masses on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**. Normal Mass times will resume on Friday **4<sup>th</sup> Oct**.

## **Canonisation of the first English Saint for decades**

Pope Francis will declare Cardinal John Henry Newman a Saint in October. The October Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral will be devoted to Cardinal Newman, with his inspiring quotes and timeless hymns. Wednesday **2<sup>nd</sup> October** at 8pm. All welcome. Full details at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

## **Cafod Fast Day**

785 million people around the World don't have water near their home. Three miles is the average women and girls walk every day to collect water. CAFOD helps people to access water across the world. Would you have a simple meal like a bowl of soup, and give the money you save to CAFOD? Next Friday **4<sup>th</sup> October** is Family Fast Day. Please take a Cafod envelope home this week-end and give what ever you save on your Fast Day Lunch. Please put in your envelope and return next week-end. If you are a tax payer, please consider filling in the gift aid form which can increase the value of your donation by 20%. Thank you so much for your generosity.

## **Churches Together Harvest Supper**

At St John's Hall on Sunday **20<sup>th</sup> October**. Tickets are now available from Helen 814865, just £7.50 adult & £5 children. It starts at 6.30pm and includes a fish/ chicken & chip supper & entertainment from each church. Come & join us for a fun evening.

## **Coffee with Cops**

Our local police officers would like us to host a regular 'Coffee with Cops'. This new initiative gives our part of the village a location and opportunity to meet local police and PCSOs. Why not come along and have a chat? The next two sessions will be in St. Theresa's Parish Centre on Tuesday **29<sup>th</sup> October** and Tuesday **26<sup>th</sup> November**, from 10:00am - 12 noon.

## **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. More details on the porch noticeboard and a box for your gifts during the month of October. Each box sent costs £2.50. We intend a Quiz night in the Parish Centre on Saturday 2nd November 7.00 pm to raise the funds.

## **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.

Talks will take place Wednesdays during Advent at 7:00 pm:

**20<sup>th</sup> November** - How to defend our faith without raising your voice

**27<sup>th</sup> November** - Amoris Laetitia: A Vision for Marriage and the Family

**4<sup>th</sup> December** - Mercy and the Migrant Crisis

**11<sup>th</sup> December** - What's wrong with Assisted Suicide?

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - Top ten principles for civil communication when defending the faith.

**Deanery Quiz.** Friday 11th October a fun evening out, pit your wits against our partnership parishes. Braintree Catholic Church Hall, The Avenue, Braintree, CM7 3HY, 7.30 for 7.45, bring your own food and drink, tickets £5. See poster in the porch.

**Parish Pastoral Council** This is a reminder that the PPC minutes of **13<sup>th</sup> August 2019** meeting are on the notice board in the entrance. Bernadette. Vice Chair PPC.

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

**Christmas cards** are now available to buy in the Repository along with other cards and gifts.

# The Holy Guardian Angels

Feast 2<sup>ND</sup> October



The doctrine that every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church and so is not an article of faith, but is the “mind of the Church”, as expressed particularly by St Jerome and St Basil. It is present in both the Old and New Testaments. As Jesus says, See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always gaze on the face of my Father in heaven. Thus even little children have guardian angels, and these angels remain in the presence of God even as they fulfil their mission on earth.

Anciently, all angels were celebrated together on the feast of St Michael. A separate feast of the Guardian Angels began in Valencia in 1411. At the reform of the Breviary in the 16th century it was included among the local feasts, and it was raised to the status of a feast in the General Calendar in 1608, placed on the first free day after the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

One of the benefits of this feast is that it reminds us that God cares for us each, individually. We all know this in theory, but it is easy – in times of depression or temptation – to convince ourselves that we are too small to matter, for good or ill. Let us use this feast to remind ourselves that each of us has an angel of our very own looking after us; and also to pray to God for our own Guardian Angel. What a bore and a burden to them some of us are. May we one day be a cause of rejoicing for them also.

## Mass Times

Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Saint Wenceslaus (Waclaw), Martyr</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Wedding Anniversary (A & T Aldridge)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</b>		
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	Elizabeth Cassidy RIP (Eilish)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Mass: 7.00am	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October <i>Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor</i>	No Mass this week	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	No Mass this week Rosary Group: 1.30pm Wednesday Club: 2pm	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	No Mass, Exposition or Benediction this week	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Saint Francis of Assisi</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	Alejandra Martinez RIP (A Zuniga-Daly)
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October		Michael O'Connor RIP (Wendy Dodd)
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</b>		
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 1:2-3; 2:2-4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 Gospel: Luke 17:5-10		People of the Parish

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