

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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

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## Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

*The publican went home at rights with God; the Pharisee did not*

**Mass book page 155**

**1st Reading:** *Ecclisasticus : 35:12-14, 16-19*

**Psalm 33:** *The poor man called; the Lord heard him*

**2nd Reading:** *2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.  
Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.*  
(p. 157)

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends

In today's Gospel Jesus provides us with a lesson in how to identify true piety from false piety. When we first encounter the Pharisee and the tax collector in the parable, we are at once given enough information about them to jump to all the usual conclusions. A Pharisee is by definition a person with a rigorous commitment to God, the law, ritual, and the moral code. A tax collector is a traitor to his country and his religion, making a living off his fellow citizens by collaborating with a foreign oppressor. It would seem that the Pharisee is the one that God will listen to.

The Pharisee wastes no time in pointing out that he is a better breed of person, not like the greedy, dishonest, adulterous people around him. And then his gaze falls on his fellow intercessor, a public figure everyone loves to hate. The Pharisee assures God that *he* fasts and pays tithes on his whole income—not like this thief, who profits from the Roman occupation and adds a little for himself on top.

Is this self-adulation and other-directed accusation meant to be prayer? As conversations go, this one seems to be a monologue with its speaker as its object. The only room left for God might be at the conclusion, where it is surely expected God will offer congratulations to such a pious figure.

The tax collector on the other hand, keeps his distance, averts his gaze and approaches God in a humble and contrite manner. This provides us with a warning to avoid being like the Pharisee who is caught up in his own belief that he is a faithful follower of God. On the outside he provides the model image of piety, whilst something far darker lies on the inside.

Humility is the cornerstone of our spirituality, and its true measure is judged on words and actions, not just appearances. It matters not how many good causes we may support, how regularly we attend Church or say our prayers. If we are filled with self-importance and criticism of others, we do a disservice to both ourselves and to God.

Let us pray this week that the Lord be in our hearts and on our lips.

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

### Shaping Our Future

Parishioners may remember that following consultation with Parishes, the Diocesan document on "Shaping Our Future" asked local Parish Partnerships to submit a report to the Diocese at the beginning of Advent. A DRAFT copy the document being developed for submission is now available on the notice board at the back of the Church. If anyone wants to discuss this document Fr Lee is happy to have a chat with them. A further part of the submission on the subject of Renewal is being prepared. The Diocese will receive the submissions from each Parish Partnership and use these to develop the Diocesan Plan to be communicated in 2020.

### Social Media

The Parish is now on twitter: @StStansted and on Instagram: sttheresastansted do please follow us. #21stCentury #Evangelisation

### Lisieux Pilgrimage

For anyone interested in getting copies of photos and a photo slide show, please place your orders on the relevant list in the church porch as soon as possible. Frances.

### Churches Together Food Bank

Due to all the kind harvest donations from the churches & schools we are well stocked at the moment. The only things we are short of are tinned meat & fish. Thank you for your generosity.

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

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish

Tony Aldridge will be holding a meeting after Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the Parish Centre to discuss arrangements for the Golden Jubilee of our parish next year.

**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.

## **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.

## **Talks series: How to defend your faith without raising your voice**

Most of us have been challenged at some point to speak about or defend our faith. This could have been whilst in the pub, on a chat with our friends or even with other people who go to church. At times, it can be difficult to find the correct words or courage to speak out. To help with this, we will be hosting a series of talks taking place over five Wednesdays during Advent 20-Nov to 18-Dec at 7pm. Cost: free. To register and for full details please visit: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/events>

## **Month of Holy Souls**

November is the month of prayer for Holy Souls, when we pray for all the faithful departed, those known and dear to us, and those too, who have no one to pray for them. There are Envelopes and sheets for us to write the names of departed loved ones to be given to Fr Lee or Deacon Des. The names on the sheets will be kept by the altar for the month of November and will be remembered at the Masses during November. A Mass stipend can also be placed in this envelope. This year we also offer a 24hour candle will be lit on the feast day of Holy Souls, 2<sup>nd</sup> November with the name of your departed loved one on it. This will be lit in the sanctuary during the Masses of that day. The cost of each candle is £3.00 and can be ordered by filling in the sheet for Holy Souls candles. Please see Fr Lee or Deacon Des about these.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Mass will be offered for the Souls of Departed loved ones at 10.00am

## **All Saints**

All Saints 1<sup>st</sup> November is a Holy Day of Obligation meaning that every Catholic is obliged to be at Mass on that day. Masses for All Saints at St Theresa's will be as follows. 7.30pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Vigil Mass of All Saints (This Mass fulfils our Obligation) and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 9.30am. Do please make every effort to attend one of these Masses.

## **Christmas Boxes**

Many of you have been most generous in donating wool to the Wednesday Club so that some of them can knit woolly toys/hats and scarves for the children. Please come over to coffee after Mass on Sunday and you will see the lovely things that they have managed to knit. If anybody else is able to knit and would like some wool to transform into a scarf or hat for a deprived child, please let us know. TICKETS are now on sale - only £5 for a fun night out. Join us for a Quiz in the Parish Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7pm for 7.30pm. A big Thank You to all those who have also already donated items for the boxes. We are in dire need of felt pens/biros/pencils and notebooks/toothbrushes. Please join us for packing on 6<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm plus lots of tea and cake! Eileen Quinn 812109.

## **Parish Administrator**

The Parish Finance committee has identified the need for an expanded role and applications are invited for the position of Parish Administrator. The role will be contracted for 12 hours a week at a rate of £10-20p per hour. Initially the hours will be worked from 10:00 – 14:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Parish Priest will regularly review these according to the ongoing needs and requirements of the Parish. Interested persons should apply by sending a CV and Covering Letter explaining their suitability and qualification for the role via e-mail to Leigh Buckley at the Diocese of Brentwood. Her e-mail address is [leighbuckley@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:leighbuckley@dioceseofbrentwood.org). Diocese of Brentwood is an Equal opportunities employer. Closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Collections Q2 2019

Month	Month total	Last Year	Diocesan collections	Second
July	£3,247.92	£2,813.89	£370.83	
Aug	£2,792.76	£2,604.52		
Sep	£2,981.36	£3,673.49	£25.00	

## Holy Souls

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. St Paul warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "Even as others who have no hope... for the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise"

The Church has always taught us to pray for those who have gone into eternity. Even in the Old Testament prayers and alms were offered for the souls of the dead by those who thought "Well and religiously concerning the resurrection" It was believed that "they who have fallen asleep with godliness had great grace laid up for them" and that "it is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." We know that a defiled soul cannot enter into heaven.

## Mass Times

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	People of the Parish
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</b>		
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	Bernie Hayes RIP (Eilish)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Sts Simon &amp; Jude Apostles</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Confessions: 12pm Mass: 12.30am Rosary Group: 1.30pm Wednesday Club: 2pm	Christopher & Michael Bambridge (J Bambridge)
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October <i>Vigil of All Saints</i>	Confessions: 7pm Mass: 7.30pm <i>(fulfils the obligation)</i>	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November <i>All Saints – Holy day of Obligation</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	People of the Parish
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November <i>All Souls</i>	Mass: 10:00am  Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Holy Souls  Special Intention (T Kemp)
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C</b>		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: <i>Wisdom 11:22-12:2</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: <i>2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 19:1-10</i>	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	People of the Parish