#### The Little Flower Messenger

##### Year C TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 6th October 2019

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

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ

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| Gospel: Luke 17:5-10*If only you had faith!* |
| **Mass book page 146** |  |
| **1st Reading:** | Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4 |
| **Psalm 145:** | *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.* |
| **2nd Reading:**  | 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-4 |
| **Gospel Acclamation:** | *Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!* |
| **Communion Antiphon:****(p. 149)** | *The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.* |
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**This Week’s Good News**

Today the Gospel reading begins this way: "At that time the apostles said to the Lord: "'Increase our faith!'" (Luke 17;5-6). I think that all of us can make this request our own. We, like the Apostles, also say to Jesus:"Increase our faith!"

Yes, Lord, our faith is small, our faith is weak, fragile, but we offer it to you just as it is, so that you will make it grow. It seems to me that it would be good for all of us to repeat this together: "Lord, increase our faith!" Shall we do it?

Everyone: Lord, increase our faith! Lord, increase our faith! Lord, increase our faith! Make it grow!
And the Lord, how does he answer? He replies: "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree: 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:6).

The mustard seed is very small, but Jesus says that it is enough to have a faith like this, small, but true, sincere to do things that are humanly impossible, unthinkable. And it is true! We all know people who are simple, humble, but with an incredibly strong faith, who truly move mountains!

Think, for example, of certain mammas and papas who face very hard situations; or certain sick people, even gravely sick people, who convey serenity to those who visit them. These people, precisely because of their faith, do not boast about what they do, rather, as Jesus asks in the Gospel, they say: "We are useless servants. We have done what we were supposed to do" (Luke 17:10).

How many people among us have this strong, humble faith and do so much good!

In this month of October, which is especially dedicated to the missions, we think of many missionaries, men and women, who have overcome all sorts of obstacles to spread the Gospel. They have truly given their life; as St. Paul says to Timothy: "Do not be ashamed to bear witness to our Lord, nor to me, in prison for him; but with the power of God, suffer with me for the Gospel" (2 Timothy 1:8).

**Pope Francis, St. Peters Square, Sunday, 6th October, 2013**

**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.

**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

###### Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux – Sunday 6th October

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

###### Children’s Liturgy

We will be re-starting Children’s Liturgy on the first Sunday of each month, starting on the **6th October**, when we will be celebrating the Feast of Saint Theresa.  Children’s Liturgy is open to all children aged 4 until they have made their First Holy Communion.  The purpose of Children’s Liturgy is for the children to hear the Scripture at an age-appropriate level.  Therefore, 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. Children should 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.

**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.

###### Catholic Voices: How to defend our 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 presented by Catholic Voices.

###### The talks will take place In the Parish Centre. Light refreshments at 7pm. Talks start at 7:30pm.

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

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

**04th December** - Mercy and the Migrant Crisis

**11th December** - What’s wrong with Assisted Suicide?

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

###### Register at: https://www.sttheresastansted.org/events/

###### **Churches Together Harvest Supper**

###### At St John’s Hall on Sunday 20th 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 29th October and Tuesday 26th November, from 10:00am - 12 noon.

**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? Friday 4th October was Family Fast Day. Please take a Cafod envelope and give what ever you saved on your Fast Day Lunch. If you are a tax payer, please consider filling in the gift aid form which can increase the value of your donation by 25%. Thank you so much for your generosity.

###### 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.

###### Parish Administrator

Anna Watkins has decided to step down from her role as Parish administrator after 5 years. We are grateful to Anna for all the help and enthusiasm she has brought to the role.

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

Diocese of Brentwood is an Equal opportunities employer.

###### **Ordinariate Mass**

Wednesday 9th of October the Mass will be according to the Ordinariate Use Divine Worship: The Missal. Everyone welcome to this Mass.

**Saint Theresé of Lisieux**

Feast 6th October

**“I Thirst for Love”**

*(A Poem by St. Thérèse of Lisieux)*

In wondrous love Thou didst come down from Heaven

To immolate Thyself, O Christ, for me;

So, in my turn, my love to Thee is given,

I wish to suffer and to die for Thee.

Thou, Lord, has spoken this truth benign:

“To die for one loved tenderly

Of greatest love on Earth is sign;”

And now, such love is mine, such love for Thee!

Abide, abide with me, O Pilgrim blest!

Behind the hill fast sinks the dying day.

Helped by Thy Cross I mount the rocky crest;

Oh, come, to guide me on my heavenward way.

To be like Thee is my desire;

Thy voice finds echo in my soul.

Suffering I crave! Thy words of fire

Lift me above Earth’s mire, and sin’s control.

Chanting Thy victories, gloriously sublime,

The Seraphim all Heaven cry to me,

That even Thou, to conquer sin and crime,

Upon this Earth a sufferer needs must be.

For me, upon life’s dreary way,

What scorn, what anguish, Thou didst bear

Let me grow humble every day,

Be least of all, always, Thy lot to share!

Ah, Christ! Thy great example teaches me

Myself to humble, honours to despise.

Little and low like Thee I choose to be,

Forgetting self, so I may charm Thine eyes.

My peace I find in solitude,

Nor ask I more, dear Lord, than this:

Be Thou my sole beatitude,

Ever in Thee renewed, my joy, my bliss.

Thou, the great God Whom Earth and Heaven adore,

Thou dwellest a prisoner for me night and day;

And every hour I hear Thy voice implore:

“I thirst – I thirst – I thirst – for love always!”

I, too, Thy prisoner am I; I, too, cry ever unto Thee

Thine own divine and tender cry:

“I thirst! Oh, let me die of love for Thee!”

For love of Thee I thirst! Fulfill my hope;

Augment in me Thine own celestial flame!

For love of Thee I thirst! Too scant Earth’s scope.

The glorious Vision of Thy Face I claim!

My long slow martyrdom of fire

Still more and more consumeth me.

Thou art my joy, my own desire.

Jesu! May I expire of love for Thee!.

##### Mass Times

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| Saturday **4th October** | Confessions: **5.15 – 5.45pm**Mass: **6pm** | **Michael O’Connor RIP**(Wendy Dodd) |
| **27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C** |
| Sunday **6th October**  | Confessions: **9.15 - 9.45am**Mass: **10am** | **People of the Parish** |
| Monday **7th October***Our Lady of the Rosary* | **No Mass today** |  |
| Tuesday **8th** **October** *Saint Osyth, Religious* | Confessions: **9am**Mass: **9.30am** | **Joyce Barrel**(T Grace) |
| Wednesday **9th** **October** *Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest*  | Confessions: **12pm**Mass (Divine Worship: The Missal): **12.30pm** Rosary Group: **1.30pm**Wednesday Club: **2pm** | **Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham** |
| Thursday **10th** **October** *Saint Paulinus of York, Bishop and Missionary* | Confessions: **7pm** Mass: **7.30pm** Exposition & Benediction: **8pm** |  |
| Friday **11th October** *Saint John XXIII, Pope* | Confessions: **9am**Mass: **9.30am** |  |
| Saturday **12th October***Saint Wilfrid, Bishop and Missionary* | Confessions: **5.15 – 5.45pm**Mass: **6pm** | **Jim Birchall RIP**(M Keef) |
| **28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C** |
| Sunday **13th October** 1st Reading: *2 Kings 5:14-17*2nd Reading: *2**Timothy 2:8-13*Gospel:*Luke 17:11-19*  | Confessions: **9.15 - 9.45am**Mass: **10am** | **People of the Parish** |

**\*** Are these Mass times working for you? Contact Fr Lee if you have any suggestions.