

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 13th October 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ

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Parish Deacon: Rvd Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

No one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.

Mass book page 149

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalm 97: *The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.*

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.*
(p. 151)

This Week's Good News

In today's Gospel, Jesus cures 10 lepers, but only one of the ten returns to offer thanks, and this was a Samaritan, the least expected to do the right thing in Jewish society.

This teaches us about gratitude, about the need to recognise and acknowledge when we have received help from not just God, but from each other.

It is also the case that a gift is freely given, and the expression of gratitude is not technically required. However, it is a natural response of those who fully appreciate what's been done for them.

When we practice gratitude regularly it gradually becomes a way of life. St Francis of Assisi found 'perfect joy' after experiencing rejection and deprivation, and we too can experience gratitude whether the miracle we have asked for comes on cue or not.

The common excuse of those who are habitually ungrateful is that they do not 'feel' thankful, in other words they do not experience their lives as a blessing, their past experiences as favourable, the relationships they have had as loving and nurturing, or their means as sufficient.

It is an error to misconceive gratitude as payment for services rendered, just as we often insist upon thanks for gifts we have freely bestowed. If we practice gratitude we may well begin to see the world around us in a different way.

We should all think about what we have been given and the blessings to be found therein. Let us pray that we can always follow the example of the Samaritan; "realising he had been healed, he returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him."

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

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, 2nd 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.

Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux

Thank you to everyone who attended our St. Theresa's Feast Day celebrations on Sunday. Very special thanks to those who helped organise the event or brought food to share.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 at 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:

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

Harvest Contributions

Churches Together in Stansted which organises the Food Bank would like to thank parishioners very much for their generous donations - they are much appreciated.

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

The Giving Machine

Don't forget as you begin shopping for Christmas presents that Online Shopping can generate FREE donations for your Church or chosen charity. Simply sign up with The Giving Machine and go through their website to your normal retailer. For assistance, please pick up a card or flyer in the foyer or speak with Anna Watkins who will be happy to get you started.

Harmonaires Concert 9th November 2019

The Harmonaires are holding a concert on 9th November at the United Reform Church Water Lane Bishop's Stortford in aid of The Catenian Bursary fund – start time 7pm.

The Catenian Bursary Fund is a Registered Charity which aims to help young people who volunteer to go to various projects worldwide. Sophie and Tom Horton from this parish have been recipients of grants in the past.

The concert will last just over an hour, tickets are £12 for adults and £6 for young people and are available either online at www.theharmonaireschoir.com or from John Richardson 07984402677.

St Teresa of Ávila (1515 - 1582)

Feast 15th October

She was born in Ávila in Spain and entered the Carmelite convent there at the age of 20, not because of any great attraction to the religious life but because it seemed the most sensible thing to do. At this time Carmelite convents were comfortable places. One was well looked after, had as much contact with the outside world as one wanted, and could keep one's own possessions. With time, and despite ill-health, she made great progress in contemplative prayer and had a number of mystical experiences, which she treated with great suspicion since she felt that she was not nearly holy enough to be accorded them by God.

Teresa's prayer life led her to seek a more perfect life, and in 1562, in the face of much opposition, she founded a convent of Discalced Carmelite nuns in Ávila. "Discalced" ("shoeless") signified their devotion to poverty. In 1566 the General of the Carmelite Order approved Teresa's original foundation and permitted her to make new ones. In 1575 the chapter of the Order decided to dissolve them all, and for the next five years every effort was made to destroy Teresa's reforms and many of her followers (including St John of the Cross) were imprisoned and cruelly treated.

At length, in 1580, and with the support of King Philip II, the Discalced Carmelites were made independent and St Teresa was able to found more new convents. She died, worn out by her efforts, on 15 October 1582.

She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

A favourite story about St Teresa illustrates the intimate relationship that the saints have with God. When she was on one of her innumerable journeys across Spain, her horse threw her as she was crossing a river. Soaked to the skin she looked up to heaven and said, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!" We should bring everything to God in our prayers, even our reproaches. For a reproach, in the end, is simply our way of offering up to God our incomprehension of what he is giving us.

Mass Times

Saturday 12 th October <i>Saint Wilfrid, Bishop and Missionary</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Jim Birchall RIP (M Keef)
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 13 th October	Confessions: 9.15 - 9.45am Mass: 10am	People of the Parish
Monday 14 th October <i>Saint Callistus, Pope, Martyr</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Tuesday 15 th October <i>Saint Teresa of Ávila, Virgin, Doctor</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Wednesday 16 th October <i>Saint Hedwig, Religious</i> <i>Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin</i>	Confessions: 12pm Mass: 12.30pm Rosary Group: 1.30pm Wednesday Club: 2pm	Bambridge Family (J Bambridge)
Thursday 17 th October <i>Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr</i>	Confessions: 7pm Mass: 7.30pm Exposition & Benediction: 8pm	
Friday 18 th October <i>Saint Luke, Evangelist</i>	Confessions: 9am Mass: 9.30am	
Saturday 19 th October <i>Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest</i>	Confessions: 5.15 – 5.45pm Mass: 6pm	Laurence McCreanor RIP (S Wood)
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 20 th October 1 st Reading: <i>Exodus 17: 8-13</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 18:1-8</i>	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.