

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 1st December 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/>

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr Lee Bennett frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Deacon: Rvd Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

Mass book (P. 82)

1st Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 121:

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

2nd Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

(P. 84)

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends

This first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year. It is also the year of Matthew's Gospel when the worldwide church will hear passages each Sunday from this great Gospel. Advent is a beautiful season that leads us to the feast of Christmas. A key word for this season might be anticipation. We wait for good things with longing.

Advent is a time when the church asks us to be mindful of various levels of anticipation. For sure we look forward to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Belief in the Incarnation — the astounding marvel of the Word of God taking flesh and becoming human — is at the very heart of our Christian faith. But as suggested in the Scripture readings for this Sunday, Advent turns our attention to another focus of our anticipation.

Our Christian faith believes that we have a destiny with God. We are not on an endless treadmill, with history turning in an eternal circle without purpose. No, we believe that God is leading us to the complete fulfillment of our human story — a story for us that, both individually and corporately, ends in the loving embrace of God and the unending experience of beauty and love for which we long. Advent prompts us to anticipate that unimaginable yet real endpoint.

In the Gospel, we have yet another metaphor for anticipating the future that the end may come unexpectedly, "like a thief in the night." Jesus reminds his disciples that, like their ancestors at the time of Noah, people can live engulfed in everyday concerns but without awareness of what God is asking of them. The disciple of Jesus is to be awake, alert for the moments of grace that can break into our lives unexpectedly.

May this Advent be a time of spiritual alertness for us.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

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, 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism: The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place in Church on **Tuesday 17th December at 7:30 p.m.** The following meeting will take place on **Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7:30 pm.** Do please let Deacon Des or Fr Lee know if you would like to attend this course.

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

Second Collection:

The monthly collection for Diocesan Second collections will take place this weekend.

Encounter:

Unfortunately Advent Encounter lunch has had to be cancelled but we will be having a New Year lunch on 17th January instead. More details later.

Children's Service and Christmas Party: Sunday December 15th December 2019

The Children's Christmas Service will be on Sunday 15th December at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by the Christmas party in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome to the service but please let us know if your child / children wish to attend the party so that we may cater for everyone. Please email us at helenhall5@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01842 879766 with your child's name and age as soon as possible. A voluntary donation of £3.50 can be given on the day of the party. We are very excited because Fr. Christmas has contacted us to say that he will prioritise a visit during this very busy time for him. There are invitations at the back of the church with further details. Please let Helen and Mark know asap.

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council:

The minutes of the PPC meeting of 15.10.19 are now on the noticeboard in the church entrance and on the website. Please do take a look: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org>

Christmas on the Green:

Come and join in Churches Together "Celebration Of Christmas" at Mountfitchet Green on Saturday 21st December at 4:00 p.m. for Carols and the telling of the Christmas Story.

Children are encouraged to bring lanterns and dress in biblical costume. This is a non-seating event, so please bring your own chair if needed. Refreshments available. No Charge.

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

This series of exciting talks continues this Wednesday. (4th December).

At the heart of the talks is a method called Reframe, which aims at avoiding the defensiveness and self-defeating responses which many of us instinctively deploy in the face of hostility.

The talks will take place on **Wednesday evenings:**

- Mercy and the Migrant Crisis - **4th December**
- What's wrong with Assisted Suicide? - **11th December**
- Top ten principles for civil communication when defending the faith – **18th December**

Arrivals and light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Talk starts at 7:30 p.m. - Cost: Free (*Donations Welcomed*) Register at: <https://www.sttheresasaststed.org/events>

Forty Hours Devotion (Quarant' Ore): Will start on Monday. We will divide the Forty Hours over a period of four days **from 9:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Monday 2nd December to Thursday 5th December.**

We will begin each day with a Solemn Mass of Exposition at 9:00.a.m. which concludes with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the 40 hours we gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. The Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle following Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m. each day.

If you really cannot spare the time to come and pray in Church, can I please invite you to pray for the success of the Quarant' Ore this year: that more hearts will be drawn close to the Eucharistic Heart of Our Lord, and that our Parish will see a deepening of faith and growth in number.

If you have any special intentions for us to put before our Eucharistic Lord during the Quarant' Ore, please write them down and pass them to Fr Lee or Deacon Des.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: takes place half an hour before each Mass.

Home Visits for the Sick and Housebound: Please let us know if anyone is housebound (even if it is TEMPORARY) 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.

Of your Charity

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Patrick Deehan, who has recently died. His funeral rites will be celebrated here at St Theresa's on Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. **Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.**

Quarant' Ore, or Forty Hours

Prayer before the blessed Sacrament by St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Lord Jesus Christ, who, through the love which you bear toward men, does remain with them day and night in this sacrament, full of mercy and love, awaiting, inviting and receiving all who come to visit you, I believe that you are present in the Sacrament of the Altar. From the abyss of my nothingness, I adore you. I thank you for all the graces which you have bestowed upon me, particularly for having given me yourself in this sacrament, for having given me your most holy Mother Mary for my advocate, and for having called me to visit you in this church. I pay my homage to your most loving heart for these three ends:

1) in thanksgiving for this great gift;

- 2) to make amends to you for all the outrages which you do receive in this sacrament from all your enemies;
- 3) I intend by this visit to adore you in all the places on earth in which you are present in this sacrament and in which you are the least honoured and the most abandoned.

My Jesus, I love you with my whole heart. I am sorry for having offended your infinite goodness so many times. I purpose, with the help of your grace, never more to offend you; and, at this moment, miserable as I am, I consecrate my whole being to you. I give you my entire will, all my affections and desires and all that I have. From this day forward, do what you will with me and with everything that belongs to me. I ask and desire only your holy love, the gift of final perseverance and the perfect fulfillment of your will. I commend to you the souls in purgatory, particularly those who were most devoted to the Most Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin Mary; and I also commend to you all poor sinners. Finally, my dear saviour, I unite all my affections with the affections of your most loving Heart; and thus united, I offer them to your Eternal Father, and I entreat him, in your name and for your sake, to accept and answer them. Amen.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 30 th November	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A		
Sunday 1 st December	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Michael & Jim Cassidy RIP (Eilish)
Monday 2 nd December	Confessions: 8:30 a.m. Mass of Exposition: 9:00 a.m. Benediction and Reposition: 7.30 p.m.	In Thanksgiving to God for favours recieved
Tuesday 3 rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	Confessions: 8:30 a.m. Mass of Exposition: 9:00 a.m. Benediction and Reposition: 7:30 p.m	Our Parish Community
Wednesday 4 th December <i>St John Damascene</i>	Confessions: 8:30 a.m. Mass of Exposition: 9:00 a.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m. Benediction and Reposition: 7:30 p.m. Talk Series: 7:30 p.m.	Christopher, Michael, & Andy Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Thursday 5 th December	Confessions: 8:30 a.m. Mass of Exposition: 9:00 a.m. Benediction and Reposition: 7:30 p.m. Reception into Church of Patrick Deehan RIP: 8:00 p.m.	Our Parish Community
Friday 6 th December <i>St Nicholas</i>	Confessions: 9:30 a.m. Mass of Requiem: 10:30 a.m.	Patrick Deehan RIP
Saturday 7 th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Maria Mastrandrea & Maria Anna Mastrandrea (T Mastrandrea)
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A		
Sunday 8 th December 1 st Reading: <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> Psalm: 71 2 nd Reading: <i>Romans 15:4-9</i> Gospel: <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish