

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 24th November 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Mass book (P. 167)

1st Reading:

2 Samuel : 5:1-3

Psalms 121:

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

2nd Reading:

Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord sits as King for ever.

(P. 169)

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends

There is a view that today's feast of Christ the King dates back to the middle ages. However, the feast was actually introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It was instituted as a warning against the totalitarian governments of the 20th century amidst the ever-growing spectre of the rise of Hitler and Nazism.

The gospel text of today tells us the placard that was affixed to the cross to point out the crime of Jesus, read: "This is the King of the Jews." All the four gospels are agreed on this interesting detail (Mt 27:37; Mk 15:18; Lk 23:38; Jn 19:14). In short, Jesus was being killed in the Roman way because of treason: he was accused of calling himself "King of the Jews". But this was a false accusation. Nowhere in the gospels do we find a text where Jesus made an explicit declaration like: "I am the King of the Jews." All the gospels tell us this question featured very strongly in the trials of Jesus. We are told that Jesus was explicit, that his Kingdom was not of this world.

Jesus represented an entirely different Kingship, the Kingdom of God. This would not be obtained through revolution but through an evolution from within with a conversion of hearts. This is achieved through pain and death on the cross. Jesus is the 'suffering servant', as prophesied in Isaiah, the King who humbles himself to die on the cross.

Crucified either side of Jesus are the two thieves. The 'bad thief' taunts him and challenges him to come down off the cross and to save himself. The 'good thief', on the other hand understands the role of Jesus in this world more clearly. Jesus does not save us from human limitations: legal sanctions for our faults, from suffering, and from physical death itself. Jesus gives us hope. He provides meaning to our human lives. Therefore, the criminal surrenders his heart to Jesus. He makes a choice to be part of the real Kingdom of God. And Jesus assures him: "Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise." I think, this is what the feast of today invites us to: to surrender ourselves to the loving reign of God, to make a choice to be part of the Kingdom of God, to be free from the tyranny of power, possession and pleasure of this fleeting world.

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 next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30pm.** 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

Coffee with Cops

Our local police officers would like us to host a regular 'Coffee with Cops'. This 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 final session this year will be in St. Theresa's Parish Centre on **Tuesday 26th November, from 10:00am - 12 noon.**

Churches Together Election Hustings

You are warmly invited to come and meet the prospective candidates standing in the Saffron Walden Constituency at the General Election at St John's Church Hall on Friday 29th November at 7.30pm. Please come and put questions on their values and policies or just listen. No entrance fee.

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. (27th November).

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:**

- Amoris Laetitia: A Vision for Marriage and the Family – **27th November**
- 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.sttheresastansted.org/events>

Forty Hours Devotion

We are about to mark the beginning of a new Liturgical Year, beginning next Sunday - 1st Sunday of Advent. We will mark the start of this Liturgical New Year here at St. Theresa's with a special time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament called the Forty Hours Devotion. We will divide the Forty Hours over a period of four days **from 9:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. from Monday 2nd December to Thursday 5th December.**

Here at St. Theresa's, the Forty Hours Devotion 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, the faithful 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.

Undertaking the Forty Hours devotion will bring many blessings to our Parish, and to each of us as individuals, and I urge everyone to consider coming along for a period of prayer. Would you please consider giving up one hour of your busy week to come and pray, or one hour every day during that week? For security I would like a minimum of two people to be in Church for each of the Forty Hours Devotion.

I have placed a sign up sheet with each of the Forty Hours over the Four days at the back of Church, do please sign up for this wonderful time of prayer and adoration.

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.

Holy Souls

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. As we come to the end of this month of prayer we continue to explore the Church's teaching on the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

When we speak of the souls of the just in Purgatory we are referring to those that leave the body in the state of sanctifying grace and are therefore destined by right to enter heaven. Their particular judgement was favourable, although conditional: provided they are first cleansed to appear before God. The condition is always fulfilled. The poor souls in purgatory still have the stains of sin within them. This means two things. First, it means that the souls have not yet paid the temporal penalty due, either for venial sins, or for mortal sins whose guilt was forgiven before death. It may also mean the venial sins themselves, which were not forgiven either as to guilt or punishment before death. It is not certain whether the guilt of venial sins is strictly speaking remitted after death, and if so, how the remission takes place. We should also distinguish between the expiatory punishments that the poor souls in purgatory pay and the penalties of satisfaction which souls in a state of grace pay before death. Whereas before death a soul can cleanse itself by freely choosing to suffer for its sins, and can gain merit for this suffering, a soul in purgatory cannot so choose and gains no merit for the suffering and no increase

in glory. Rather, it is cleansed according to the demands of Divine Justice. We are not certain whether purgatory is a place or a space in which souls are cleansed. The Church has never given a definite answer to this question. The important thing to understand is that it is a state or condition in which souls undergo purification. The Catholic practice of offering prayers and sacrifices for the dead is known as offering suffrages. These suffrages are offered both by the individuals and by the Church. They are intended to obtain for the poor soul, either partial or total remission of punishment still to be endured. Who are the faithful that can pray effectively for the poor souls? They are primarily all baptised Christians but may be anyone in a state of grace. At least, the state of grace is probably necessary to gain indulgences for the dead.

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 23 rd November	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE Year C		
Sunday 24 th November	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Margaret Barrett RIP (J.E. Barrett)
Monday 25 th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	Forgotten Souls with no one to pray for them (J.E. Barrett)
Tuesday 26 th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	Holy Souls
Wednesday 27 th November	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 a.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m. Talk Series: 7:30 p.m.	Fry & Bambridge Families (J. Bambridge)
Thursday 28 th November	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass: 7:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction 8:00 p.m.	Holy Souls
Friday 29 th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	Holy Souls
Saturday 30 th November <i>St Andrew</i>	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Holy Souls
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A		
Sunday 1 st December 1 st Reading: <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i> Psalm: 121 2 nd Reading: <i>Romans 13:11-14</i> Gospel: <i>Matthew 24:37-44</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

