

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 10th November 2019

Welcome to our Parish Community of St Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38

He is God, not of the dead, but of the living.

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1st Reading:

2 Maccabees : 7:1-2,9-14

Psalm 16:

I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.

2nd Reading:

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and

(P. 163)

green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends

The basis of our Christian faith is the promise of Christ that if we believe in him, we will rise again on the last day into eternal life. Life can be very cruel, and people can lose loved ones unexpectedly. The pain and sorrow we feel may ease with time but it never really goes away. If death is the last word, then life is surely futile, along with all our efforts and striving to live good lives.

The Sadducees, in today's Gospel, did not believe in a resurrection after death. They believed in God as the creator of the world, but they did not accept any kind of afterlife. For the Sadducees, it was all about getting the best out of this life. Collaborating with an occupying force and obtaining a share in the privileges and power that such collaboration would bring; wealth, comfort, position, honour and esteem were within reach now in the present life and not in a fantasy world in a non-existent afterlife.

The Sadducees challenge Jesus in a cynical way designed to ridicule His teaching on life after death. However, Jesus has the perfect answer for them. They believe in God, whom they call 'the God of Abraham'. This same God is not a God of the dead, but a God of the living where death is defeated, and the tragedies that we suffer in our lives are temporary.

This is our faith, and it is the faith that turned St. Paul from an enthusiastic persecutor of the followers of Christ into an enthusiastic defender of Christ at great cost and suffering to himself, because he had personally met the risen Lord and knew that the promise of eternity was real. This was a concept beyond the comprehension of the minds of the Sadducees and, sadly today, it remains so for many. We are an Easter people, and are called to be a joyful witness to God, a God of the living and not the dead.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

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 19th November at 7.30pm**. Do please let Deacon Des or Fr Lee know if you would like to attend this course. This course will run monthly, the date for the December course is **Tuesday 17th December again at 7.30pm**.

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

Churches Together Food Bank Volunteer Sought

One of our volunteers has had to leave because of ill health so we are looking for a replacement for her. We have a rota for taking the calls from Citizen's Advice and Spangles children's Centre and it involves manning the phone and delivering the food to Spangles. As there are eight of us it means being on duty once every two months. If you would like more details or think you can help please contact Helen on 814865 or Eileen on 812109. Thank you.

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

50th Anniversary of our Parish

As a result of our first meeting last Sunday, the Jubilee Team have decided, at present, for a special Mass on Friday 25th September, and a Parish Barbeque with entertainment on Sunday 27th September. Tony Aldridge

PPC Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of September 10th 2019 are on the website and Parish noticeboard.

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. 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:**

- 1) How to defend our faith without raising your voice - **20th November**
- 2) Amoris Laetitia: A Vision for Marriage and the Family –**27th November**
- 3) Mercy and the Migrant Crisis - **4th December**
- 4) What's wrong with Assisted Suicide? - **11th December**
- 5) 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 rapidly approaching the end of the Liturgical Year and looking forward to the Start of the New Liturgical Year that begins with the 1st Sunday of Advent (1st December 2019). 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. This is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. The focus of this devotion is the Holy Eucharist. The ancient practice is for the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed on the Altar for a continuous period of forty hours, but for security reasons we will divide the Forty Hours over a period of four days **from 9.30am till 7.30pm from Monday 2nd December to Thursday 5th December.**

The number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

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.

The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded this devotion: the protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbours, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world.

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 if you intend to come and pray.

Of your Charity

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Richard James Nagle, who has recently died. His funeral rites will be celebrated here at St Theresa's on Friday morning at 9.30 a.m. **Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.**

Holy Souls

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is experienced by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). It notes that "this final purification of the elect . . . is entirely different from the punishment of the damned" (CCC 1031). The purification is necessary because, as Scripture teaches, nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven (Rev. 21:27) and, while we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. Catholic theology takes seriously the notion that "nothing

unclean shall enter heaven.” From this it is inferred that a less than cleansed soul isn’t fit for heaven. It needs to be cleansed or “purged” of its remaining imperfections. Sanctification is thus not an option, something that may or may not happen before one gets into heaven. It is an absolute requirement, as Hebrews 12:14 states that we must strive “for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

This begs the question, what happens in Purgatory? The Church teaches that when we die, we undergo what is called the particular, or individual, judgment. Scripture says that “it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgement” (**Heb. 9:27**). We are judged instantly and receive our reward, for good or ill. We know at once what our final destiny will be. At the end of time, when Jesus returns, there will come the general judgement to which the Bible refers, for example, in Matthew 25:31-32: “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” In this general judgement all our sins will be publicly revealed (**Luke 12:2-5**).

St. Augustine said in his work ‘The City of God’ that “temporary punishments are suffered by some in this life only, by others after death, by others both now and then; but all of them before that last and strictest judgment” (**21:13**). It is between the particular and general judgements, then, that the soul is purified of the remaining consequences of sin: “I tell you, you will never get out ‘til you have paid the very last copper” (**Luke 12:59**).

Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 9 th November	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	James McCreanor RIP (S. Ward)
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 10 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. Act of Remembrance 11:00 a.m.	Those who have died in Two World Wars and in Subsequent Battles
Monday 11 th November <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	Barrett Family (J.E Barrett)
Tuesday 12 th November <i>St Josaphat</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:00 a.m.	Frank Smith RIP (T. Grace)
Wednesday 13 th November	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 a.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m.	Families Fry & Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Thursday 14 th November	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass: 7:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction 8:00 p.m.	For the Intention of The Wednesday Club (Fr Lee)
Friday 15 th November <i>St Albert the Great</i>	Mass of Requiem for Richard James Nagle: 9:30 a.m.	Richard James Nagle RIP
Saturday 16 th November <i>St Edmund of Abingdon (Rich)</i>	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Maria Mastrandea RIP (T. Mastrandea)
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C		
Sunday 17 th November 1 st Reading: <i>Malachi 3:19-20</i> 2 nd Reading: <i>2 Thessalonians 3:7-12</i> Gospel: <i>Luke 21:5-19</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish