

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year A THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ

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## Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11

*Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?*

### Mass book (P. 88)

#### 1st Reading:

*Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10*

#### Psalms 145:

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

#### 2nd Reading:

*James 5: 7-10*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.*

*Alleluia!*

#### Communion Antiphon:

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God*

#### (P. 90)

*will come, and he will save us.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends

This Sunday is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for “Rejoice” and is based on the entrance antiphon for the day: Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico, Gaudete (Phil 4:4) (Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice).

The rose vestments worn today are only used twice in the liturgical year. Once during Lent and now during Advent. Why are the vestments worn today rose coloured? The best description I heard to explain this came from a Dominican Priest many years ago, Brother Hyacinth Cordell.

He noted that nature's cycle is comprised of two things: life and light. The seasons revolve around that—the rejuvenation of spring and summer, the desolation of autumn and winter. Our liturgical seasons follow a similar pattern.

“The dark colour of violet in Advent,” he wrote, “harmonises well with the diminishing sunlight late in the year.” It also points to royalty, and Christ as our King.

“Rose,” he wrote, “is a softening of violet. It is violet approaching white. In this sense, it anticipates the pure white of the Birth and Resurrection of Christ.” A time of anticipation and rejoicing, a time of Joy.

The joy we are talking about is not “feeling good” because of possession of worldly things. One can lack material things and still be filled with joy. One may be encountering certain deprivations of life yet filled with joy. One can be physically sick but filled with joy. One can be physically or mentally challenged but filled with joy and even more joyful than those physically whole. On the other hand, one can have all the worldly possessions they desire but have no joy in their life.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is in prison. The expectation was that Jesus would free him. That did not happen. John also thought that Jesus was to deliver Israel from the Romans. That did not happen. John was disappointed and sends messengers to Jesus to ask, “Are you the one to come, or are we to wait for another.” John the Baptist in his difficulties forgot that his being in physical prison does

not mean spiritual prison. He forgot that Jesus was not a political messiah. Like John the Baptist, in our difficulties we doubt, we are disappointed, we look for answers. Jesus tells us in the Gospel not to doubt but to trust God and abide in him. Jesus says, I am the one who makes the blind regain their sight. I make the lame walk again. I heal the lepers; I make the deaf hear. I raise the dead. I bring good tidings to the poor. He adds, "Blessed is the one who takes no offence at me." Another translation says, "Blessed is the one who does not lose faith in me."

As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, let us remember to 'pray, hope and don't worry', and to never lose faith.

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 this **Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30 p.m.** The following meeting will take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** 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**

### **Christmas 2019:**

Christmas will soon be upon us, so I can confirm the times of the Christmas Services at St. Theresa's are as follows:

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: 6:00 p.m.** Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. – This is a traditional service of Christmas scripture readings and carols. Everyone welcome.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December: 4:00 p.m.** Family Mass with Pop Up Nativity; **12:00 Midnight.** Mass with Carols.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December: 8:00 a.m.** Mass of the Dawn (Shepherd's Mass); **10:00 a.m.** Mass of Christmas Day.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December (St Stephen): 9:30 a.m.** Mass

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December (St John): 9:30 a.m.** Mass.

Do please come along to these services and bring any family, friends and neighbours to join you.

### **Christmas Cards:**

A box has been placed in the Church porch for the distribution of Christmas Cards. Please place the cards in the A-Z index by surname only.

### **Christmas Flowers:**

A collection will be taken this weekend for Flowers for Christmas. Do please be as generous as you possibly can to help make the Church look even more beautiful for Christmas.

## **Children's Service and Christmas Party: Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The Children's Christmas Service will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by the Christmas party in the Parish Centre. A huge thank you to Helen and Mark for organising this event again this year.

### **Christmas: Would the children like to sing?**

We would love some children to help us with the Christmas music. If you like singing and are going to come to the Nine Lessons and Carols on 22<sup>nd</sup> December or Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m., we would love to hear from you. Frances and the choir, after Mass or 850460.

### **Christmas on the Green:**

Come and join in Churches Together "Celebration of Christmas" at Mountfitchet Green on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Change of Mass Times:**

The week commencing Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020, there will be a change to our weekday Mass Schedule. We will be introducing The Latin Mass on a Tuesday evening at 8:00 p.m. The introduction of this Mass comes from a request from a number of people in the parish. Everyone is welcome to attend the Latin Mass, again we will provide the booklets for this, and as the Mass and readings are in Latin, each week we will produce a separate sheet with the readings in Latin and English. Any questions about this Mass, do please speak with Fr. Lee.

The New Mass schedule will be: Monday: 9:00 a.m. Confessions, 9:30 a.m. Mass. Tuesday: 7:15 p.m. Confession, 8:00 p.m. Mass (Latin). Wednesday: 12:00 noon Confession, 12:30 p.m. Mass. Thursday 9:00 a.m. Confession, 9:30 a.m. Mass, 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Friday 9:00 a.m. Confession, 9:30 a.m. Mass.

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

This series of exciting talks concludes this Wednesday. (**18<sup>th</sup> December**). The topic: Top ten principles for civil communication when defending the faith.

Arrivals and light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Talk starts at 7:30 p.m. - Cost: Free (*Donations Welcomed*).

### **Ordinariate Use Mass:**

This Thursday **19<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30 p.m.** will be our monthly Mass using Divine Worship: The Missal. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of this Mass.

### **Brentwood Diocesan Directory:**

Is available to buy from the repository priced £4.00 for ringbound copies and £2.80 for normal binding. These directories have lots of useful information in them so do please buy them. The diocese has asked us to try and sell all the copies we have to keep the cost of production as cheap as possible, the cost will increase if copies go unsold.

### **Of your Charity:**

Please pray for the repose of the Soul of Patrick Hooks, who has recently died. His funeral rites will be celebrated here at St Theresa's on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10:30 a.m. **Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.**

## **The O Antiphons**

We know that Christmas is near when the Church starts to recite the O Antiphons. These refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers (The evening

Prayer of the Church). They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23, with December 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The exact origin of the O Antiphons is unknown. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

If these themes seem familiar to you, even if you don't chant or recite them at Vespers, it is because we get to sing them when we sing the Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

### Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	James McCreanor (S Wood)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A</b>		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. Children's Service & Christmas Party: 2:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December <i>O Sapientia</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.  Baptism Preparation Course: 7:30 p.m.	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December <i>O Adonai</i>	Confessions: 12:00 noon. Mass: 12:30 p.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m. Talk Series: 7:30 p.m.	Bambridge & Fry Families (J Bambridge)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass: Divine Worship: The Missal 7:30 p.m.	Mgr. Keith Newton
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December <i>O Clavis David</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	Clarke and Rooney Families Especially Rose and Chrissy RIP (K Clarke)
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December <i>O Oriens</i>	Confessions: 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A</b>		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <i>O Rex Gentium</i> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</b> <i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i> <b>Psalm:</b> 23 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</b> <i>Romans 1:1-7</i> <b>Gospel:</b> <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.  Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols: 6:00 p.m. Followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies	William Shevlane RIP (M Michelson)