

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 12th January 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet CM24 8LQ

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Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors; desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava; stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 816889 (Tue–Thur 10–2 pm)

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.

Mass book (P. 118)

1st Reading: *Isaiah 42:1 – 4, 6 – 7*

Psalm 28: *The lord will bless his people with peace.*

2nd Reading: *Acts 10:34 – 38*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The liturgical season of Christmas concludes this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas is the feast of God's Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God's Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At his Baptism in the Jordan, Christ reveals himself to repentant sinners.

His baptism by John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. It was a moment of conviction. At this baptism, Jesus received certainties (assurances) from Heaven about His identity: a) He was the "Chosen One" and the "beloved Son of God", and the nature of His mission; b) his mission of saving mankind would be fulfilled, not by conquering the Romans, but by becoming the "suffering servant" of God, i.e., by the cross.

It was also a moment of equipment. When He descended on Jesus in the form of a dove (symbol of gentleness), the Holy Spirit equipped Jesus with the power of preaching the "Good News", that God is a loving Father, who wants to save all human beings from their sins through His Son Jesus.

This is the day for us to remember the graces we have received in Baptism and to renew our Baptismal promises. On the day of our Baptism, as Pope St. John Paul II explains, "We were anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength, to fight against evil. Blessed water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with Chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One. The candle lighted from the Paschal Candle was a symbol of the light of Faith which our parents and godparents must have continually safeguarded and nourished with the life-giving grace of the Spirit." This is also a day for us to renew our Baptismal promises, consecrating ourselves to the Holy Trinity and "rejecting Satan and all his empty promises," which our profane world is constantly offering us through its mass-media of communication. Let us ask Our Lord today to make us faithful to our Baptismal promises. Let us thank Him for the privilege of being joined to His mission of preaching the "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service and forgiveness.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

The Latin Mass:

St Theresa's now offers a weekly Mass in Latin. Commonly called The Latin Mass (TLM) or Mass in the Extraordinary Form (EF), this was the Mass of the Church offered, virtually unchanged, for nearly 1500 years before 1970, when the new Mass was brought in. This Mass takes place each Tuesday at **8:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass, there are booklets provided.

Holy Hour:

Each Thursday evening at **7:30 p.m.** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for an hour of Adoration. The Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction.

Rosary Group:

Meets each Wednesday at **1:30 p.m.** in St Theresa's room. All welcome.

Intercessory Prayer Group:

Third Friday of each month at **7:30 p.m.** 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.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism: The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place in Church on **Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Next month on **Wednesday 12th February 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.

Parish News

Parish Office: We welcome our new Parish Administrator Clair Rava. Clair is based in the parish office located through St Theresa's room. The office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Change of Mass Times: Last week we started our new weekday Mass Schedule. Do look carefully at the Mass times at the back of this newsletter.

White Flower Appeal 2020: The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. On 21st October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England and Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

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 Bishop's 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 other Sacraments from the Chaplain.

Other House Visits: If anyone would like a visit or a house blessing please contact Father Lee / Deacon Des.

Social News and Events

Coffee with Cops:

The first meeting of this year will take place on Tuesday 18th February 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

The Latin Mass

Can I say a huge thank you to those who came along to our first Extraordinary Form Mass last Tuesday evening. One or two people have asked me about what happens at this Mass, so I thought that I would tackle some of the frequently asked questions about the Latin Mass. If you have any questions, do please come and speak to Fr. Lee, who will happily try and answer them.

1. How long is a Latin Mass?

On average, a typical Low Mass on a weekday will be about 40 – 45 minutes. This, of course, will vary with the number of communicants approaching or coming to kneel during the distribution of Holy Communion.

2. What is the Structure of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form?

This first part of the Mass is called the Mass of the Catechumens, while the remaining part is called the Mass of the Faithful. These names have their origin in the discipline of the early Church. In the first ages of Christianity, persons desiring to become Christians were obliged to undergo a course of instructions preparatory to baptism. They were called "catechumens," a Greek word meaning "one who is being instructed." Catechumens, not yet fully initiated in the teachings and practices of Christianity, were customarily dismissed before the Offertory.

The Mass is one continuous action, reproducing in a mysterious way the Life, Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. The structure of the Mass is as follows:

The Preparation – beginning with the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar, the Introit, Kyrie and Gloria.

The Instruction – including the Collect, the Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, (or Tract, and on certain feasts the Sequence), the Gospel (usually followed by a sermon), and the Credo.

The Offertory – which includes the Offertory antiphon, the offering of bread, the pouring of water and wine into the chalice, the offering of the chalice, the washing of the hands, the prayer to the Blessed Trinity, the "Orate fratres" and the Secret.

The Consecration – including the Preface and the Canon of the Mass, embracing the prayer "Te igitur," the Memento of the living, the Communicantes and the other two prayers before the Consecration and Elevation, the three prayers after the Consecration, the Commemoration for the Dead, the "Nobis quoque peccatoribus" and the Minor Elevation.

The Communion – including the Pater Noster, the Libera, the Agnus Dei, the three prayers before the Communion, the "Domine non sum dignus," and the Communion of the Priest and the Faithful.

The Thanksgiving – which includes the Communion antiphon, the Post-communion prayer, the "Ite missa est," and the Last Gospel.

Mass Times and Intentions

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year A		
Saturday 11 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 th January	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Michael Aldridge RIP (T&A Aldridge)
Monday 13 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday 14 th January	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	Derek Alfred Collier RIP (N Collier)
Wednesday 15 th January	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m.	Marion Van Terheyden (Wednesday Club)
Thursday 16 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Holy Hour: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: 7:30 p.m.	
Friday 17 th January <i>St Anthony</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 18 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Patricia Crehan RIP (P Bennett)
Sunday 19 th January 1st Reading: <i>Isaiah 49:3,5-6</i> Psalm: 39 2nd Reading: <i>1 Corinthians 1:1-3</i> Gospel: <i>John 1:29-34</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

