

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Clair Rava [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 816889

(Office Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

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## Gospel: John 1:29-34

*“Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”*

**Mass book (P. 125)**

**1st Reading:** *Isaiah 49:3, 5–6*

**Psalm 39:** *Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.*

**2nd Reading:** *1 Corinthians 1:1–3*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.*  
(P. 127)

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, we see John the Baptist testifying that Jesus is indeed the Son of God and the Son of man. Jesus is walking by him, and John, seeing him pass by, says, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” He doesn't say, “Behold, the Messiah.” He doesn't say, “Behold, the Son of God.” He says, “Behold, the Lamb of God.”

Lambs are very important to a shepherded people and, of course, we think of the lamb most of all when Jesus says that he is the shepherd and the lambs hear his voice and follow him.

But this is not what John has in mind. What John has in mind is something much deeper, something much more important.

He is telling his disciples that this is the sacrificial lamb, offered at the time when the people were under the slavery of Egypt. It is a reference to the Passover, the night the lamb was offered, and his blood was placed upon the doorposts of all the children of Israel and the lamb became the sacrifice by which all of them were freed.

This is the Messiah who does not come with great armies. This is the Messiah who comes to us as a sacrificial lamb and, as John says, who offers his whole life that sins might be forgiven.

Today's Gospel reminds us that being a disciple of Jesus means that we grow by faith to become witnesses for Him. Bearing witness to Christ is an active, not passive, lifetime enterprise. One cannot be a disciple of Jesus at a distance, it requires effort and sacrifice. Discipleship means that we bear witness to Christ every day in what we say and do to and for others. It means that we defend the downtrodden, seek justice for the oppressed, and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who are lost, afraid, burdened and in despair. If we do this in faith, we will truly be able to bear witness and say, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the World.”

Deacon Des

## Prayer & Liturgy

### **The Latin 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 this **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at 7:30 p.m.** Next month on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 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

**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.

**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 Fr. Lee / Deacon Des.

**Newsletter:** Should you wish to submit an item for the weekly newsletter could you please forward the details to Clair via email on [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Wednesday. Should you require assistance please contact Clair via the office number above.

## Social News and Events

**Jubilee Group:** The next meeting of the Jubilee Group will be held in the Parish Centre on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 after the 10:00 a.m. mass. All are welcome.

**Saffron Walden Parish:** The Parish Quiz is taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Newport Village Hall. Tickets cost £10 per head and doors open at 7:00 p.m. Please contact: Trish Cobby [trish.cobby@gmail.com](mailto:trish.cobby@gmail.com) 07971 170821 or Patrick Draper [patrickdraper@btinternet.com](mailto:patrickdraper@btinternet.com) 07974 306917 should you wish to attend.

## The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of January is the octave of prayer for Christian unity. Each year the Church is called upon to pray for the unity of Christ's Church on earth. This work of unity is very personal to me as it was this week of prayer that is partly responsible for my coming into full communion with the Catholic Church. This should be a reminder of the power of prayer and the ultimate aim of our ecumenical endeavours.

In the encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, Pope St. John Paul II, reminds us that 'the unity of all divided humanity is the will of God... On the eve of his sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus himself prayed to the Father for his disciples and for all those who believe in him, that they might be one, a living communion. This is the basis not only of the duty, but also of the responsibility before God and his plan, which falls to those who, through Baptism, become members of the Body of Christ, a Body in which the fullness of reconciliation and communion must be made present' (UUS, 6).

The encyclical reminds us of the importance of prayer in the work of bringing about the unity to which we are called: 'When brothers and sisters who are not in perfect communion with one another come together to pray, the Second Vatican Council defines their prayer as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement. This prayer is a very effective means of petitioning for the grace of unity, a genuine expression of the ties which even now bind Catholics to their separated brethren. When Christians pray together, the goal of unity seems closer... If Christians, despite their divisions, can grow ever more united in common prayer around Christ, they will grow in the awareness of how little divides them in comparison to what unites them' (UUS, 21–22).

This Octave was first conceived by Father Paul of Graymoor on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1907, before his entrance into the Catholic Church. The initial success in 1908 was so encouraging that he decided to promote it annually, and he regarded the Octave as one of the special means which brought his Society of the Atonement into the Church on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1909. It was given papal blessings by Pope St. Pius X on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1909, just two months after the Society of the Atonement had entered the Catholic Church. Other popes have given it their blessings over the years, including Pope St. John XXIII (who urged its observance more widely throughout the world) and Pope Paul VI (who had promoted it in his archdiocese when he was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan). Father Paul considered the Octave as the greatest project which came from Graymoor, and even though it was overshadowed by the less-specific "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" during his own lifetime, he rejoiced that those separated from the Catholic Church felt called to observe the January period as a time of prayer for unity. Even though their concept of unity differs from that of the Catholic Church, it is significant that so many pray for that unity which God desires for His people.

The Octave, as originally conceived by Father Paul, reflects the unchanging truth that there can be no real unity apart from union with that Rock, established by Christ Himself, which is Peter and his successors. For that reason, St. Peter is considered the special Patron of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.



## Mass Times and Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Patricia Crehan RIP (P Bennett)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	For the Unity of Christians (Fr. Lee)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January <i>St Agnes</i>	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m.	Bambridge & Fry Families (J Bambridge)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.  Holy Hour: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: 7:30 p.m.	Marie Keane RIP
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January <i>CONVERSION OF ST PAUL</i>	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3</i> <i>Psalm: 26</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10 – 13,</i> <i>17</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 4:12 – 23</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Fr. John Garrett

