

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 1st March 2020**

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/>
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 814349

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

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 816889
(Office Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Gospel: Matthew 4:1 – 11

“Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted”

Mass book (P. 151)

1st Reading:

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm 50:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading:

Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Communion Antiphon:
(P. 154)

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

The graphic descriptions of the temptations of Jesus given in Matthew and Luke are sometimes interpreted as the dramatic presentation of a single temptation Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was trying to entice Jesus away from his mission so that he could become, instead, a political messiah of power and fame according to the Jewish expectation, while using His Divine power to avoid suffering and death.

The three temptations— turn stones into bread (4:3); jump off the Temple pinnacle (4:6); worship Satan (4:9) – demonstrate three kinds of control: material, spiritual and civil. They correspond to three wrong evaluations:

1) those who have material resources are blessed by God; 2) those who have spiritual powers are blessed by God; 3) those who have national power are blessed by God. These, in turn, correspond to three human-divine bargains: 1) I will worship You if you make me rich; 2) I will worship You if You endow me with magical powers; and 3) I will worship You if You give me political power. These temptations of Jesus are traditionally treated as archetypes of the temptations we experience: the temptation to satisfy personal needs by material possessions, the temptation to perform miraculous deeds by spiritual power, and the temptation to seek political power and social influence by evil means. But Jesus dismisses all three temptations using the Word of God. He quotes the Law from Scripture itself: “One does not live by bread alone” (Deuteronomy 8:3); “Do not put the Lord your God to the test” (6:16); “Worship the Lord, your God” (6:13). Each time the devil tempts him Jesus responds with a quote from the Book of Deuteronomy which describes the experience of Israel during her forty years in the desert.

The devil wanted Jesus to enter the world of political power to establish his kingdom of God instead of choosing the path that would lead to suffering, humiliation and death. It was a temptation to do the right thing using the wrong means. Jesus was being tempted to win the world by worshipping the devil. Why not compromise a bit? Why not strike a deal with the evil powers?

Every one of us is tempted to seek sinful pleasures, easy wealth and a position of authority, power and glory, and to use any means, even unjust or sinful ones, to gain these things. Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance and the active use of the Word of God. Temptations make us more powerful by strengthening our minds and hearts. By constantly struggling against temptations, we become stronger. Each time one is tempted to do evil but does good, one becomes stronger.

Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time for renewing our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and Resurrection.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

Children's Liturgy: This morning we will be having Children's Liturgy. It is open to all children aged from 4 until they have made their First Holy Communion. We kindly ask that parents of younger children do not use Saint Theresa's room while Children's Liturgy is taking place.

The purpose of Children's Liturgy is for the children to hear the Scripture at an age-appropriate level. Therefore, we ask that the children start Mass in the main church with their families until before the First Reading, when Fr Lee will invite them to go into St. Theresa's room. After completing their activities, the children will process to the altar during the Offertory and will then return to their families for the rest of Mass.

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.

Sacramental Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism: The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place in Church on **Wednesday 18th March**. 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.

Lent 2020

Lent Course: Please make note of the six-week Lent Course from Sycamore taking place in the Parish Hall on the following dates/times. Everyone welcome and please feel free to bring along friends and family members.

Topic	Monday at 12:00 p.m.	Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Who is Jesus?	02 March	03 March
The Holy Spirit and the Church	09 March	10 March
The Gift of Faith	16 March	17 March
Finding True Freedom	23 March	24 March
The Meaning of Love	30 March	31 March
	12:00 p.m. Homemade Soup & Roll Lunch 12:30 p.m. The Lent Course	7:00 p.m. Light refreshments 7:30 p.m. The Lent Course

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent and every Friday in Lent at 7:30 p.m.

Service of Reconciliation: Thursday 12th March at 7:30 p.m. Clergy from the diocese will be available to hear confessions at this service.

Behold 2020 – The Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary: The Re-dedication of March 29th is both a personal promise of the people of our country, and a renewal of the entrustment vows made by King Richard II in 1381. During our Mass at 10:00 a.m. we will make an Act of Consecration.

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.

Church Noticeboards: Please do not put up posters or notices on any of the church noticeboards or Parish Centre noticeboards before speaking with Fr. Lee or Deacon Des. Thank you.

Social News and Events

Fairtrade Fortnight: We will hold our annual Fairtrade event in the Parish Hall after Mass this weekend on Saturday (29th February) and today (1st March). There will be Fairtrade items for sale, everyone is welcome.

CAFOD Family Fast Day 6th March: There will be envelopes available this weekend for your kind donations. Please don't forget to bring them back the following weekend, 7th and 8th March. If you are a Gift Aid donor, please remember to fill in your details on the envelope. Thank you.

Coffee with Cops: Please note the next meeting takes place this Tuesday (3rd March) in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday Group – Hunger Lunch: We are holding our annual Lent Hunger Lunch on Wednesday 4th March after the 12:30 p.m. Mass, in aid of CAFOD. Everyone is invited to come and share our delicious homemade soup and donate to a worthy cause. Any queries please contact Mary on 01279 814190.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 6th March at 2:00 p.m. at Stansted Free Church with refreshments afterwards. We will be joining in a service with 120 countries and islands around the world in this annual wave of prayer. This year the service has been written by women in Zimbabwe. All welcome.

St Patrick's Night: A night of Irish music, dancing and food taking place in the Parish Centre on Saturday 14th March at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available to purchase after both of this weekend's Masses at a cost of £3. Please bring food to share.

Deanery Day of Recollection: Taking place at St. Theresa's on Saturday 28th March. "From the Cross to the Resurrection, a time for waiting". Sr. Moira and Sr. Margaret Mary will lead a reflection on this theme, with time for reflection and meditation. There will be Mass and an opportunity for Confession. Full details on the noticeboard.

Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Year A		
Saturday 29 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Barrett Family (J Barrett)
Sunday 1 st March	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 2 nd March <i>St. David</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Lent Course: 12:00 p.m.	
Tuesday 3 rd March	Coffee with Cops: 10:00 a.m. Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m. Lent Course: 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 4 th March	Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. Confessions: 1:00 p.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Cross (RIP) (J Bambridge)
Thursday 5 th March	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Holy Hour: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: 7:30 p.m.	
Friday 6 th March <i>CAFOD Lent Feast Day</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross: 7:30 p.m.	
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year A		
Saturday 7 th March	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Bridget McCreanor (RIP) (S Wood)
Sunday 8 th March <i>1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4</i> <i>Psalm: 32</i> <i>2nd Reading: Timothy 1:18</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish