

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMASS) 2nd February 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.sttheresasstansted.org/>
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

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: Luke 2:22 – 40

“My eyes have seen your salvation”

Mass book (P. 297)

1st Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 23:

Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord

2nd Reading:

Hebrews 2:14 - 18

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:
(P. 302)

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's feast commemorates the presentation of the Infant Jesus by Joseph and Mary to God in His Temple in Jerusalem. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. In the Eastern Orthodox Church and some Eastern Catholic Churches, it is one of the twelve Great Feasts. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a combined feast, commemorating the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child to God in the Temple. The Feast is known as the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Feast of Candlemas (because of the blessing and procession of candles on this day acknowledging Christ as the light of the nations).

This feast originated in Jerusalem in the 4th century and spread to Rome by the middle of the 5th century under its Greek name, Hypapante. The Greek Church celebrates the Hypapante or Feast of the Encounter commemorating the encounter of the New Testament represented by Jesus with the Old Testament represented by Simeon and Anna. Simeon, who is described as a righteous and devout man, obedient to God's will, addresses himself to our Lord as a vassal or loyal servant who, having kept watch all his life in expectation of the coming of his Lord, sees that this moment has "now" come, the moment that explains his whole life. When he takes the Child in his arms, he learns, not through any reasoning process but through a special grace from God, that this Child is the promised Messiah, the Consolation of Israel, the Light of the nations. Simeon recognises Jesus as the Lord's anointed one, and in his prayer of blessing he prophesies that Jesus is meant to be the glory of Israel and the light of revelation to the Gentiles.

Pope Francis: "Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally "seen" salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion

of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.”

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. You are welcome to use the foyer instead, if necessary.

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 12th February at 7:30 p.m.** The preparation meeting for March will be held 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.

Parish News

Second Collection: This weekend’s second collection will be taken to contribute towards the mandated Diocesan Second Collections – please be generous.

Visitors to the Parish: If you are visiting our parish welcome! You will find located at the end of each pew and at the back of the church Gift Aid envelopes. If you wish to make a donation, and are a UK taxpayer then please complete your details on the back of the envelope and place your donation into our collection basket. By providing us with these details we are then able to claim back funds from HMRC. Thank you.

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.

Facebook Page: We are in the process of creating our new Facebook page. Please remember to like this new page so that you're able to see any updated information and news.

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 no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Wednesday. Should you require assistance please contact Clair via the office number.

Social News and Events

Jubilee Group: The next meeting of the Jubilee Group will be held in the Parish Centre today, Sunday 2nd February 2020 after the 10:00 a.m. mass. All are welcome.

St Blaise: Monday 3rd February we celebrate the Memorial of St Blaise Bishop and Martyr. On this day it is traditional to have the Blessing of Throats, using two candles blessed at the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord. This will be carried out during the Mass on Monday. All are welcome.

Encounter: The next meeting takes places on Friday 14th February in the Parish Centre with a short talk about Our Lady of Guadalupe followed by a talk & discussion on "How to defend one's faith without raising one's voice", led by Anel Zuniger-Daly. Please bring a bible. 10:00 a.m. coffee 10.30 a.m. meeting opens followed by a sharing lunch (please bring food to share) at 12:30 p.m. and finishing at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome for all or part of the day, any enquiries please contact B/S 652 060.

Social Committee: Anna Watkins and the Social Committee will be in the Parish Centre after Mass on Sunday 16th February to discuss social events for 2020. This is open to anyone who has ideas or would like to help with the organisation of future events.

Coffee with Cops: Please note the change of date, the next meeting takes place on Tuesday 25th February in the Parish Hall from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemass)

Today, 2nd February, Catholics mark the Presentation of Christ in the temple. According to the Mosaic law, a mother such as Mary who had given birth to a male child was considered unclean for seven days; moreover, she was to remain "in the blood of her purification"—i.e., outside the temple—for thirty-three days more. If the woman had borne a daughter, the time that she was excluded from the sanctuary was doubled. When the time (forty or eighty days) was over, the mother was to "bring to the temple a lamb for a holocaust and a young pigeon or turtle dove for sin"; if she was not able to offer a lamb, she was to take two turtle doves or two pigeons; the priest prayed for her and so she was cleansed (see Leviticus 12:2-8). Forty days after the birth of Christ, Mary complied with this precept of the law. She redeemed her first-born from the temple and was purified by the prayer of Simeon the Just in the presence of Anna the prophetess (see Luke 2:22).

At the start of the Liturgy today, Fr. Lee will bless candles and process into Church. This procession represents the entry of Christ, who is the light of the world, into the Temple of Jerusalem.

Mass Times and Intentions

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMASS) Year A		
Saturday 1 st February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Roy Oakes (RIP) (S Wood)
Sunday 2 nd February	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 3 rd February <i>St Blaise</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass & Blessing of Throats: 9:30 a.m.	
Tuesday 4 th February <i>St Andrew Corsini</i>	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 5 th February <i>St Agatha</i>	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 6 th February <i>St Paul Mikki & Comps</i>	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 7 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.	
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 8 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Marie Keane (RIP) (S Gallagher)
Sunday 9 th February <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7 – 10</i> <i>Psalm: 111</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1 – 5</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 5:13 – 16</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

