

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16th February 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:17 – 37

“You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you”

Mass book (P. 136)

1st Reading:

Ecclesiasticus 15:15–21

Psalm 118:

They are happy who follow God’s law!

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:6–10

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon:
(P. 139)

*They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.*

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, while challenging his disciples to live a life of justice and righteousness which would exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus sets forth his own position with regard to the Law given through Moses by providing a new interpretation and meaning for the old laws. Jesus shows us how to go to the root of the commandments about murder, adultery, divorce, taking foolish oaths, retaliation and love of neighbour.

Jesus explains that the fifth commandment means respecting life in all its stages by honouring others in words and deeds. This means that we have to control our anger because it is the rawest, strongest and most destructive of human emotions. Describing three stages of anger and the punishment each deserves; Jesus advises his disciples not to get angry in such a way that they sin. 1) Anger in the heart has two forms: a) a sudden, blazing flame of anger which dies suddenly. b) a surge of anger which boils inside and lingers so that the heart seeks revenge and refuses to forgive or forget. Jesus prescribes trial and sentencing by the Village Court of Elders. 2) Anger in speech: Using words which are insulting or damaging to the reputation. Jesus says that such an angry one should be sent to the Sanhedrin or Jewish religion’s Supreme Court for trial and sentencing. 3) Anger in action: Sudden outbursts of uncontrollable anger often result in physical assault or abuse. Jesus says that such anger deserves hellfire as its punishment. In short, Jesus teaches that long-lasting anger is bad, contemptuous speech or destroying someone’s reputation is worse and harming another physically is the worst.

Jesus insists that adultery, the violation of the sixth commandment, is also committed through wilfully generated evil and impure thoughts and desires which are willingly sustained in the mind. Our hands become agents of sin according to what we touch and how we touch, in lust or greed or violence. Our eyes become agents of sins according to what they look at. When Jesus recommends mutilation of eyes and hands he is not speaking literally, because we have more sins than we have body-parts. Besides, even if all

offending parts were removed, our minds — the source of all sins – would still be intact, causing us to sin by thoughts and desires. So, Jesus teaches us that, just as a doctor might remove a limb or some part of the body, in order to preserve the life of the whole body, so we must be ready to part with anything that causes us to commit grave sin or which leads to spiritual death. Hence, these warnings are actually about our attitudes, dispositions, and inclinations. Jesus recommends that our hands become agents of compassion, healing and comfort and that our eyes learn to see the truth, goodness and beauty around us.

In the first four of the Ten Commandments we are asked to reverence God, His holy name and His holy day and to reverence our father and mother. The next set of commandments instructs us to respect life, one's personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another's property and another's spouse. We need to be true to God, to ourselves and to others. Let us allow God's word of truth to penetrate our minds and hearts and to form our consciences, making us men and women of integrity.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

Fr. John Garrett: It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear Fr. John who died on Wednesday 12th February. Do please remember him in your prayers and his sister Joan. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he Rest in Peace. Amen. It has been announced that Fr John will be received into St Theresa's after the evening Mass on Ash Wednesday (26th February). His Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Thursday 27th February.

The Latin Mass: Takes place each Tuesday at **8:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass, there are booklets provided.

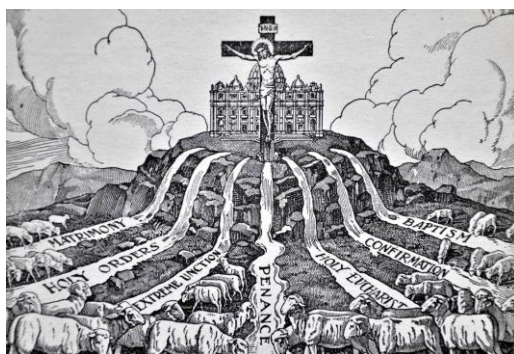
Holy Hour: Each Thursday evening at **7:30 p.m.** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for an hour of Adoration. The Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction.

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 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.
The Existence of God	24 February	25 February
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
	12:00p.m. Homemade Soup & Roll Lunch 12:30 p.m. The Course	7.00 p.m. Light refreshments 7.30 p.m. The Course

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. every Wednesday during Lent (From 26th February) and every Friday in Lent at 7:30 p.m. (From Friday 28th February).

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

Guild Enrolment: Congratulations to Maximillian who was enrolled into the Guild of St. Stephen at the evening Mass last Saturday, 8th February 2020. Please remember him in your prayers.

Weekday Masses W/C 17th February 2020: Please make a note that due to annual leave their will be no weekday Masses this week. Thank you.

Parish Office W/C 17th February 2020: Please note that due to annual leave there will be no cover in the Parish Office this week. Clair will return on Tuesday 25th February. Thank you.

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 you 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

Social Committee: Anna Watkins and the Social Committee will be in the Parish Centre after Mass today (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.

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

Mass Times and Intentions

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 15 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 16 th February	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Cassidy (RIP) (Eilish)
Monday 17 th February	No Mass	
Tuesday 18 th February	No Mass	
Wednesday 19 th February	No Mass Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m.	
Thursday 20 th February	No Mass	
Friday 21 st February	No Mass	
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A		
Saturday 22 nd February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Henry John Aldridge (RIP) (T&A Aldridge)
Sunday 23 rd February <i>1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1–2, 17-18</i> <i>Psalm: 102</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 23</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 5:38 – 48</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish