

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23rd February 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:38 – 48

“Love your enemies”

Mass book (P. 139)

1st Reading:

Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18

Psalm 102:

The Lord is compassion and love.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 3:16–23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:
(P. 141)

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Jesus tells us that God loves all of his children, deserving and undeserving. He calls us to imitate this all-embracing love of God. However, we know how difficult it can be to follow this commandment, especially when it comes to those who have wronged us or that we simply may not like.

In the Old Testament, the commandment: “You must love your neighbour as yourself” is restricted to fellow Israelites. But now Jesus broadens this to include everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews, enemies as well as friends. Why? Because this is the way that the heavenly Father acts. He shows equal love towards good and bad, not because he is indifferent to morality, but because he loves without limit.

‘Love our enemies?’ ... Most of us find it hard enough to love our friends sometimes. All of us have enemies, or at least people that we dislike. Why is it that we dislike these particular people? Something they said or did to us? Enemies expose a side of us which we usually manage to keep hidden from our friends, a dark side of our nature which we would rather not know about.

But we can make a decision to love someone even though we do not have feelings of love for that person. To love an enemy goes contrary to our human nature. Only God can help us to love in the way Christ asks of us.

We pray that the Lord helps us to be merciful and forgiving towards those who make life difficult for us, to rise above our human weakness and to keep us faithful in loving God and one another.

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.

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.
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

Fr. John Garrett: Please remember Fr John in your prayers he will be received into St Theresa's after the evening Mass this Wednesday (26th February). His Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Thursday 27th February. Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

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.

Social News and Events

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

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 welcome to this event.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. It marks the start of the season of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

We will have two Masses on Ash Wednesday one at 10:30 a.m. preceded by Confessions at 10:00 a.m., and a Mass at 7:30 p.m. with Confessions at 7:00 p.m. We will also hold our first set of Stations of the Cross at 12:00 noon on that day too, walking the way of sorrow with our Lord at the start of our Lenten journey.

Mass Times and Intentions

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	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 24 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Lent Course: 12:00 p.m.	Fr John Garrett (RIP) (Fr Lee)
Tuesday 25 th February <i>Shrove Tuesday</i>	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m. Lent Course: 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 26 th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Confessions: 10:00 a.m. Mass & Imposition of Ashes: 10:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. Rosary Group: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday Club: 2:00 p.m. Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass & Imposition of Ashes: 7:30 p.m. Reception of Fr John Garrett	Fry & Bambridge Families (J Bambridge)
Thursday 27 th February	Confessions: 9:30 a.m. Requiem Mass: 11:00 a.m.	Fr John Garrett (RIP)
Friday 28 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross: 7:30 p.m.	
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 <i>1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7</i> <i>Psalm: 50</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 4:4</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

