

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 8th March 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 17:1 – 9

“His face shone like the sun”

Mass book (P. 155)

1st Reading:

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 32:

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

2nd Reading:

Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father’s voice was heard: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him’. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Communion Antiphon:
(P. 157)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

The common theme of today’s readings is metamorphosis or transformation. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent, and to radiate the grace of the transfigured Lord around us by our Spirit-filled lives. The Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain reminds us that the way of the cross leads to Resurrection and eternal life and that the purpose of Lent is to help us better to enter into those mysteries.

The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for Our Lord’s suffering, death and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make Jesus’ chosen disciples aware of His Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions about a conquering political Messiah. A third purpose was to strengthen their Faith and Hope and to encourage them to persevere through the future ordeal.

The disciples received a preview of the glorious figure Jesus would become at Easter and beyond. While praying, Jesus was transfigured into a shining figure, full of Heavenly glory. This reminds us of Moses and Elijah who also experienced the Lord in all His glory. Their presence in Matthew’s Transfiguration account emphasizes Jesus’ continuity with the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) in salvation history.

At the shortage of wine during the wedding of Cana, Jesus changed water into wine: one substance became another substance. In each Holy Mass our offering of bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. Hence, just as Jesus’ Transfiguration strengthened the Apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against our own temptations and our source for the renewal of our lives during Lent. In addition, communion with Jesus in prayer and in the Eucharist, should be a source of daily transformation for both our minds and hearts. We must also be transformed by becoming humbler and more selfless, sharing love, compassion and forgiveness with others. But in our everyday lives, we often fail to recognise Jesus when he appears to us “transfigured,”

hidden in someone who is in some kind of need. Jesus will be happy when we attend to the needs of that person. With the eyes of Faith, we must see Jesus in every one of our brothers and sisters, the children of God we come across each day and, by His grace, respond to Him with love and service.

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 at 7:30 p.m.** The session following this will take place on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30 p.m. Do please let Deacon Des or Fr. Lee know if you would like to attend either of these sessions.

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 is 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 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.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bishop's Stortford - Nursery admissions: This is the final week to apply for Nursery places for September 2020 for children who will be turning/have turned 3 years old between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. From this September, in addition to the standard 15 weekly hours, we will be offering 30 hours and extended provision, subject to availability. Application forms can be obtained from the school office. The deadline for applications is Friday 13th March at 3:30 p.m.

Social News and Events

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day: Friday 6th March was the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for sixty years, it is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe - continue their vital work. Your Fast Day Envelopes will be collected after each Mass this weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

Fairtrade Weekend: Thank you to all those who contributed to and supported our parish Fairtrade weekend. A cheque has been sent to the Fairtrade Foundation for £125. This will be used to start up new Fairtrade projects throughout the third world. It will mean that many more people will have fair wages and be able to give their children an education and clean drinking water. The Traidcraft stall took a record £295.81, well done everyone.

Fairtrade Raffle Prizes: We have two unclaimed numbers from the raffle draw, they are 402 and 304. The prizes can be collected from Anel at the end of Saturday Mass, if they are not claimed, they will be placed under the noticeboard in the foyer for two weeks. Thank you.

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 still available to purchase at a cost of £3. Please bring your own drinks and food to share. Also, should you wish to donate any raffle prizes please place them into the marked boxed in the church foyer or bring them along with you on the night.

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.

Churches Together Lent Groups: 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in March. 11th Quaker Meeting House, 18th St Johns Church, 25th St Theresa's. All welcome.

Mass Times and Intentions

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	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 9 th March	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Lent Course: 12:00 p.m.	
Tuesday 10 th March	Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m. Lent Course: 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 11 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.	Fry & Bambridge Families (J Bambridge)
Thursday 12 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 13 th March	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross: 7:30 p.m.	
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year A		
Saturday 14 th March	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Fr John Garrett (RIP) (S Wood)
Sunday 15 th March <i>1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7</i> <i>Psalm: 94</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8</i> <i>Gospel: John 4:5-42</i>	Confessions: 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.	People of the Parish

