

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 22nd March 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: John 9:1 - 41

“The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored”

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| 1st Reading: | <i>Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13</i> |
| Psalm 94: | <i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i> |
| 2nd Reading: | <i>Ephesians 5:8 - 14</i> |
| Gospel Acclamation: | <i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i> |
| Communion Antiphon: | <i>The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.</i> |

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

This is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Traditionally, this day is known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin word for the command “rejoice,” the first word in the introductory antiphon for today’s Liturgy, (based on the words of Isaiah 66:10). The antiphon and the readings both express the Church’s joy in anticipation of Jesus’ Resurrection. Today’s readings both remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instruct us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

Jesus’ giving of sight to a blind man, reported in today’s Gospel, teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of our mind by Faith and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. “There are none so blind, as those who will not see.” To live as a Christian is to see, to have clear vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Today’s Gospel reminds us that we are to live as children of the light, seeking what is good and right and true. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should serve to heal our blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God and love them as our own brothers and sisters saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

This story also shows how the stubborn pride and prejudice of the Pharisees prevented them from seeing in the humble “Son of Man” the long-expected Messiah, and that made them incapable of recognising the miracle.

The Pharisees suffered from spiritual blindness. They were blind to the Holy Spirit. They had the externals of religion but lacked the spirit of Jesus’ love. They were also blind to the suffering and pain right before

their eyes. They refused to see pain and injustice. There was no compassion in their hearts. In short, they were truly blind both to the Holy Spirit and to the human misery around them.

Although the Pharisees have long since disappeared from history, there are still many among us who are blinded by the same pride and prejudice. Spiritual blindness is very common in modern times. Perhaps, the most awful disease in our country today is spiritual blindness. Such blindness refuses to see the truths of God's revelation. This blindness refuses even to admit that God or Christ exists. In their pride, the spiritually blind claim that everything ends with death and that there is no life after death. They propagate their errors and accuse believers of childish credulity and folly. They ignore the gifts of the intellect we all possess. God's revelation through Christ informs us that there is a future life awaiting us in which our spiritual faculties and our transformed bodies will be fully and fittingly glorified. According to Pope Benedict XVI, the miracle of the healing of the blind man is a sign that Christ wants not only to give us sight, but also to open our interior vision, so that our Faith may become ever deeper, and we may recognise Him as our only Saviour. He illuminates all that is dark in life and leads men and women to live as "children of the light" (Lenten message-2011).

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

We are keen to share Mass with you as often as we can. Our intention is to livestream via our Facebook page. Please be sure to visit this page and "Like it" to see our updated information and Masses. Please note that you will need to register with Facebook before being able to view the Masses. Please visit the website for further information.

The Mass times are:

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| Monday | 10:00 hrs |
| Tuesday | 10:00 hrs (Latin Mass – will not be livestreamed) |
| Wednesday | 10:00 hrs |
| Thursday | 10:00 hrs |
| Friday | 10:00 hrs |
| Saturday | 10:00 hrs |
| Sunday | 10:00 hrs |

This weekend we celebrate Mothering Sunday, we pray in thanks.

For our mothers and for all their loving care.

Help us to show them how grateful we are by our gifts, our words and our actions.

We thank you for Mary, the Mother of Jesus who prays for us.

We thank you for our Mother the Church,

who supports us as we travel through this life to our heavenly home.

Amen

Sacramental Preparation

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.

Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

When we cannot fulfil our obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation, whether because of illness or bad weather, or some other reason outside of our control, we can, and indeed should make an Act of Spiritual Communion. It is also good to make an Act of Spiritual Communion when we can attend Mass, but when something prevents us from receiving sacramental Communion that day—say, a mortal sin that we know we have not had the opportunity to confess yet.

We can make an act multiple times a day—even on days when we have been able to receive the Eucharist; because each Act of Spiritual Communion that we make increases our desire to receive sacramental Communion, and also helps us to avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Communion worthily.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



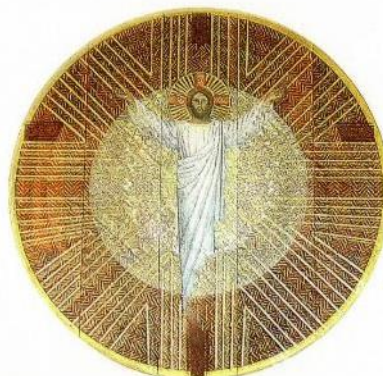
Private Prayer

The church will be open every day for private prayer between the hours of 12:00p.m. and 5:00p.m.

Daily Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 12:00p.m. until 1:00p.m.

Confession daily between 12:00p.m. and 12:30p.m. at the Presbytery door.

The church will be closed to the Parish during Mass times.



**Mass Times and Intentions
(no public attendance)**

| FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year A | | |
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| Saturday 21 st March | Mass: 6:00 p.m. | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 22 nd March <i>Laetare Sunday</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i> | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | Lucia Rava (RIP) (Rava Family) |
| Monday 23 rd March | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | Betty Hall (RIP) (K Whiting) |
| Tuesday 24 th March | Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m. | |
| Wednesday 25 th March <i>ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i> | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | |
| Thursday 26 th March | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | |
| Friday 27 th March | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | |
| FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year A | | |
| Saturday 28 th March | Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | Daniel McCarthy (RIP) (S&K McDowall) |
| Sunday 29 th March <i>1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14</i> <i>Psalm: 129</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11</i> <i>Gospel: John 11:25, 26</i> | Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i> | People of the Parish |

