

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 29th March 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
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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: John 11:1 – 45

“I am the resurrection and the life”

1st Reading:	<i>Ezekiel 37:12-14</i>
Psalms 129:	<i>With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Romans 8:8-11</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, we have the wonderful account of the raising of Jesus' friend Lazarus from the dead. According to John, the raising of Lazarus is the sixth of seven signs and it is the climactic culmination of Jesus' public ministry. In addition to revealing Jesus as the Lord of life, the Lazarus story presents Jesus as the one whose ministry fulfilled the servant prophecies such as Isaiah 42:7, 49:9, and Psalm 16:1-11. It is the longest single narrative/story in the four Gospels, covering 45 verses. It is also Jesus' last public appearance before His Passion and death. In addition, it is the last and greatest of the miracles worked by our Lord to demonstrate that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, and that through Faith in Jesus believers will receive eternal life. In other words, Jesus wanted to make this miracle, the last recorded, a convincing demonstration that he is what he claims to be — the Messiah, sent by God to give new life, eternal life, to mankind.

Jesus explains the “why” of this miracle as, “It is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” First, when Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, people will give God glory for the miracle. Second, in this Gospel, Jesus' glorification involves the cross, and verses 45-53 make it clear that Lazarus' raising will lead to Jesus' death and Resurrection. This is another way of saying that Jesus' death on the cross will lead to his glorification. This miracle story, taking place as Jesus is on his final journey to Jerusalem, prepares us for his death and Resurrection. The story is presented in five distinct, self-contained scenes: Jesus receiving the news of Lazarus' death, the disciples' protesting Jesus' return to Judea, Martha's pleading with Jesus, Mary's arrival as Jesus stands waiting in the road, and the miraculous raising of Lazarus.

At the death of Lazarus, Martha is consumed with a rage that propels her to meet Jesus along the road and accuse him; her sister Mary, paralysed by sorrow, remains at home. Death does not make Jesus angry, but

the sight of his grieving friends does make him weep. Death falls with unequal force on the side of the living, and it is for the sake of the living, not for Lazarus, that Jesus performs this greatest of his signs in John's gospel.

This is primarily a story about belief, not a story about death at all. The appearance of the enshrouded Lazarus at the mouth of the tomb is very dramatic, but we know of course that he will have to die again, and this revival of his earthly life is a temporary state of affairs. What is most important is the answer Martha gives—and we each must consider—to the question Jesus poses: “I am the resurrection and the life; do you believe this?” Martha answered, “I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.” Martha pronounced her confession of Faith as a response to Jesus who had revealed himself as the Resurrection and the Life. Her Faith did not depend upon seeing her brother raised from the dead. Proof begets knowledge and confirms Faith; Faith does not rest on proof but precedes it.

While the miracle of raising Lazarus from the grave shows Jesus' Divine power over death itself, it also shows him as a wonderfully sensitive human being. His love for Lazarus and his sisters is palpable. Martha's and Mary's complaint that Jesus' presence would have averted Lazarus' death shows us how real their friendship was. So do Jesus' tears. The story also represents the best of that special human quality in Jesus of openly expressing real feelings. Jesus, fully divine and fully human demonstrates the understanding He has when we ourselves suffer from loss and grief yet offers us the chance of eternal life if we truly proclaim that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

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:

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

Recorded Mass: The Sunday masses will now also be recorded and placed onto our YouTube channel for you to view, making it easier for those of you that don't have access to Facebook. This can be accessed from our website via the 'Live Mass Times' page or by going to YouTube and searching 'Saint Theresa of Lisieux Stansted' in the search bar. Please note they will continue being livestreamed via the Facebook page.

Children's Liturgy: We have placed a page on our website for parents with school-aged children to assist with worship at home, including links to ideas on how to mark the season of Lent and Easter with your families whilst at home. We hope you find this useful.

Mass Intentions: Fr. Lee is still happy to receive intentions for Mass. If you would like a Mass offered at St. Theresa for a deceased friend or relative or you would like a Mass said for yourself, please submit the details via the form on our website.

Weekly Donations: Should you wish to continue making your weekly donations you may do so by standing order. Please email stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details on how to arrange this.

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.



Keep in touch

Your emotional and mental health well-being is just as important as your spiritual well-being. It is normal to feel stressed or lonely when self-isolating, but there are some things you can do to feel better.

Reach out to your usual supports, like family and friends, and talk about how you feel. Also, it is recommended that you consider sticking to a routine, such as having regular mealtimes, bedtimes and exercising.

As an additional support Fr. Lee and Deacon Des would like to chat with you on a weekly basis to see how you are and to offer guidance. If this is something that is of interest to you then please complete the form on the website, alternatively you can post your details to the Presbytery.

If you are in touch with people of the parish that may not have access to social media, or our website, then please ask them to also post their details to the Presbytery.

WhatsApp Group: Deacon Des is starting a parish WhatsApp group, if you would like to join please email Des at desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org with your mobile number and he will send you an invitation to join the group.



Mass Times and Intentions (no public attendance)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year A		
Saturday 28 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m.	Daniel McCarthy (RIP) (S&K McDowall)
Sunday 29 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook & Saved to our Youtube page</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 30 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	
Tuesday 31 st March	Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m.	
Wednesday 1 st April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	
Thursday 2 nd April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	
Friday 3 rd April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	
PALM SUNDAY Year A		
Saturday 4 th April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	
Sunday 5 th April <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7</i> <i>Psalm: 21</i> <i>2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on Facebook</i>	People of the Parish

