

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10th May 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: John 14: 1 - 12

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'

1st Reading:	<i>Acts 6:1-7</i>
Psalm 32:	<i>May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 Peter 2:4-9</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows how and why the early Church developed social institutions and Church offices to keep Jesus' memory alive. It is a reading that has a special significance for me personally. It tells us how the apostles and early Christians, as a Church community, prayerfully and amicably solved a community problem. It is the famous account of the institution of the Diaconate and the selection of the first deacons in the church.

The Greek-speaking widows complained that the Aramaic-speaking food-ministers were short-changing them at meals in favour of the Aramaic-speaking widows. The apostles solved the problem by convening a meeting of "the whole community of the disciples" and informing them that they should be the ones to work through their problem. Their task: "Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to the task" of distributing the food (6:3). Note the names of the chosen seven: "Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus of Antioch." Every single one is a Greek! Luke tells us that the Church believed that if the Greeks in the community had a problem, then the Greeks in the community were important and gifted enough to solve their problem.

The apostles ratified the choice of these community servants by praying over them and laying hands on them. The apostles' choice to solemnize the choosing by the ancient ritual of the imposition of hands on those chosen suggests something very interesting about service in the Church. The Apostles seem to be saying that the role of the community servant is worthy of what would become known as "ordination." That is, service is so important in the life of the Church, that we cannot be the Church of Christ Jesus if we're without mutual service. Word, and Sacrament, and Service, are the three constituents of the Church which Jesus founded, and the Holy Spirit brought to active life. This is the essence of the Diaconate, 'ordained not unto the priesthood but unto the ministry'. The Catechism states 'Deacons share in Christ's mission and

grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint (character) which cannot be removed, and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the 'deacon' or servant of all'.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. We go to God the Father who is Truth and Life through Jesus, and Jesus calls Himself the "Way" because He, the Only begotten Son of God, is also Son of Man, the visible manifestation in human form of all that his Father is.

If we wish to know who God is, what God thinks, and what God wants of us, we must attend to Jesus the Word of God. "The Jesus of the Gospel does not only show us the way – his life of humble and generous servanthood is the way; he does not just philosophise about a concept of truth – he is the perfect Revelation of the truth about a God of enduring and unlimited love for his people; he is not just a preacher of futuristic promises – he has been raised up by God to a state of existence in God to which he invites all of us. In embracing the Spirit of his Gospel and living the hope of his Word, we encounter, in Christ, God Himself." (Connections).

This week the Holy Father, offered his prayer intentions, for Deacons and their threefold ministry of Word, Altar and Charity. Jesus showed what he expects of all of us and especially His Deacons, by his perfect example of service to all.

Deacon Des

Prayer & Liturgy

We are keen to share Mass with you as often as we can, and we livestream Masses via our YouTube page. This can be accessed via our website under the 'Live Mass Times' tab.

<https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/>

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

Exposition & Adoration: This Saturday (9th May) and Sunday (10th May) Deacon Des will be livestreaming the Exposition and Adoration at 6.00.p.m.via our Youtube channel.

Please continue to check the website, Facebook page and Newsletter for updates and information.

Mass Intentions: Fr. Lee is still happy to receive intentions for Mass. If you would like a Mass offered at St. Theresa's 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. <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/mass-intentions/>

Children's Liturgy: We have added a 'Scripture Scramble' challenge this week, its great fun for all the family, why not have a go! <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/childrens-liturgy/>

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.



The Link (Village Magazine)

The May issue is now on the Link website www.stanstedlink.org.uk and includes many ideas to keep your children entertained, lovely photos, cartoons, quiz, crossword, plus a short story, our usual Council news and advertisements as well as other brilliant features covering VE Day and local history.

Unfortunately, there will be no further issues of the Link until things start to get back to some normality.

Planned Giving Envelopes & Continued Support

The Planned Giving Envelopes for Gift Aid donors have arrived and will be kept safe until the lockdown has been lifted.

As we are unable to attend church in person, should you wish to continue making donations you can consider the following options:

Weekly Donation: Should you wish to make your usual weekly donation to St Theresa's you can do so via <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=stansted>. Please ensure that Stansted Mountfitchet – St Theresa of Lisieux is selected. Any funds donated will come in full to the Parish.

Current Gift Aid Envelope Donor or New Gift Aid Donor: If you would like to start making donations via standing order please email stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details on how to set this up.

Current Gift Aid Donor – change of circumstances: If your circumstances have changed and you no longer wish to contribute via the Gift Aid Donor scheme please advise by email to stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org
During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.

Another way to support us is making all of your online purchases via the Giving Machine. All you need to do is visit <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-theresas-catholic-church-stansted-mountfitchet>/<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/> and register your details and confirm you wish to support us and that's it. You can then log into the Giving Machine each time you make an online purchase; different companies offer different amounts of support. Our sign-up code is **265525**.



Keep in touch

If you wish Father Lee or Deacon Des to call for a chat on a weekly basis to see how you are and offer guidance then please complete the form on the website <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/keep-in-touch/>, 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 has started 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.



Safeguarding

During these unusual times it is a sad fact that some people will use the vulnerability of others for their own gain and gratification. We have listed below some helpful information to keep the people of our parish safe:

Delivery Scam: Items ordered fraudulently from AO.com are being delivered to the victims address and later being collected by a fraudster dressed in a DPD uniform. If you have a package delivered that you know was not ordered by you or a family member/friend contact the company that has sent the package. If someone knocks on your door claiming an item was delivered to you in error, stop and think; are they from the same company that just delivered it? Can you see a van? Just because they have a uniform doesn't mean they are from the company they claim to be from. More details around this scam can be viewed on our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DELIVERY-SCAMS.pdf>

Thinkuknow: Thinkuknow is the education programme that helps protect children both online and offline. Explore one of the six Thinkuknow websites for advice about staying safe when your children are on a phone, tablet or computer. A link can be found on our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/childrens-liturgy/>

Domestic Abuse: Sadly, during these difficult times, the number of domestic incidents has increased, and many people are at continuing risk. If you or anyone you know is suffering, we have placed a list of contacts on our website where you can go to for help <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/keep-in-touch/useful-catholic-links/>

Please do not suffer in silence and seek help when you can, the Government has said that anybody suffering domestic abuse can leave their homes to seek help.

Mental Health

Support for our Parish: Being at home all day can be stressful and keeping physically and emotionally well is particularly important. We have placed some helpful hints on our website for you to view; it provides you with the top 10 things you should consider doing to keep yourself well during these unusual times: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Resilience-At-Home-Guide3394.pdf>

We have also added some information on what Catholics can do to protect their mental health during the Coronavirus. It provides some advice and suggestions, as well as a list of helplines and resources that you can use to receive further information and advice: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/What-can-Catholics-do-to-protect-their-mental-health-during-the-Coronavirus3398.pdf>

Supporting our children: We have also added a resource to help parents support their children's well-being during isolation. It provides you with five simple ways that can aid well-being of children during times of self-isolation and home schooling. The link is on our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Five-simple-ways-to-aid-childrens-well-being3399.pdf>

Also the Catholic Children's Society has put together some Christian meditations for children; why not take a look: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view_as=subscriber
We have also placed the link onto our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/childrens-liturgy/>

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

Saturday 9 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A		
Sunday 10 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Charlotte Ann Jenner (RIP) (M&T Rhead)
Monday 11 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Charlotte Ann Jenner (RIP) (S&K McDowall)
Tuesday 12 th May <i>St John Houghton</i>	Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m.	
Wednesday 13 th May <i>St Erconwald</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 14 th May <i>St Matthias</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Friday 15 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Saturday 16 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A		
Sunday 17 th May <i>1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17</i> <i>Psalm: 65</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18</i> <i>Gospel: John 14:15-21</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Stella Marie Saunders (RIP) (G Saunders)

