

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 24th May 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
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Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 814349

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 17:1-11

‘Father, glorify your son’

1st Reading: Acts 1:12-14
Psalm 26: *I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.*
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16
Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;
I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!*
Communion Antiphon: *Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia.*

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

Today’s first reading tells us how the apostles waited in prayer for the coming of the Spirit who would enable them to preach and bear witness to Christ despite persecutions. In the second reading, Peter challenges his early Christian audience and us to view and accept suffering as an opportunity to be more fully one with Jesus. The Gospel gives us the beginning of the “High Priestly Prayer” in which Jesus prays for himself and for protection and unity for his disciples.

This prayer is called “The High Priestly Prayer” because Jesus, as High Priest, is preparing to offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and he is interceding for his disciples just as the high priest interceded for the people of Israel. It is also called the “Prayer of Consecration” because in it, Jesus consecrates himself to his redemptive death, offering himself to the Father as an obedient, willing sacrifice. Also, he prays that through his death the Father and the Son may be glorified. Thus, the prayer proclaims our hope and our certainty— a life lived in communion with the Father and the Son. Jesus has glorified the Father; the Father has glorified the Son.

In the first part of the ‘prayer’ we hear today, Jesus prays for himself and his chosen apostles. He prays for the protection and unity of his disciples. In the second part, Jesus commends his apostles to the Father and prays for them because they have accepted the word of God and acknowledged his Divine origin as the Messiah. They have put their trust in Jesus and His Father. Jesus prays that they may act as agents of truth and love in the world, that they may be protected from evil, and that they may be one.

They are to be the leaven in the dough, the purifying salt and the lights shining in the darkness. Prayer is a constant and continuing attitude of trust and acceptance of God’s presence in the community. It is not merely asking God for something, but also giving Him thanks for everything. It is desiring that God’s Holy Will may be done effectively in and through our lives. We should try to set aside some time each day to spend with God in prayer. If we are convinced of the presence of God within us, we can talk to Him even while doing the most mundane of tasks, driving, shopping, gardening or housekeeping. Our talk with God

can include praise and thanksgiving, pleas for forgiveness and prayer for our needs. This conversation is often the best prayer, a conversation between two friends, a friend who will never let us down.

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 of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary: Deacon Des will be livestreaming the Exposition and Rosary via our YouTube channel on Saturday (23rd May) and Sunday (24th May) at 18:00 hrs.

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 some activities for children around Our Lady and the Rosary. They can be located on our website: <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.



Virtual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham was due to take place on Saturday 23rd May but has had to be cancelled due to the closure of places of worship. However, with thanks to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham's 24 hour livestream service a virtual pilgrimage can be held. Simply join the services via the Shrine's website: www.walsingham.org.uk on Saturday 23rd May from 11:00 a.m.

Church Volunteer – Can you help?

As you know we are praying that soon we shall be able to reopen the Church for private prayer. As part of the planning, to ensure everyone's safety, we are looking for willing volunteers to come forward from the parish to steward. This role would mean ensuring social distancing takes place, limit the number of people in Church at any one time, and/or clean on a regular basis.

Sadly, the current advice is that those who are either in an 'at-risk' category or who are above the age of 70 cannot be part of this volunteer workforce. That means that even those of you who feel very fit and well, or are a septuagenarian or older, cannot volunteer. We are sorry about that.

We do need to have a good list of volunteers to show we can cope with any requirements requested of us and to be able to open St Theresa's, should the go ahead be given by the government.

If you would like to volunteer your services to provide a daily clean and /or to steward, can you please contact Clair via the parish email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org with your name, contact details, and the times/days you could be available each week. Should you have any questions as to duties please feel free to contact Fr. Lee or Deacon Des.

Once we have enough volunteers, we shall arrange a rota to enable us to open our Church for those who wish and are able to attend; firstly, for private prayer, and later for a return to attend Mass.

Planned Giving Envelopes & Continued Support

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.



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.



Mass Times and Intentions (no public attendance)

Saturday 23 rd May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Eileen Barrett (RIP) (G Barrett)
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A		
Sunday 24 th May <i>World Communications Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 25 th May <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	John McGrath (RIP) (S. McDowell)
Tuesday 26 th May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury*</i> <i>EF Calendar</i> <i>Commem of St Philp Neri</i>	Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m.	
Wednesday 27 th May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 28 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Friday 29 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Saturday 30 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
PENTECOST SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A		
Sunday 31 st May <i>Day of Prayer for the Church</i> <i>1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11</i> <i>Psalm: 103:1</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7</i> <i>Gospel: John 20:19-23</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish

