

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A PENTECOST SUNDAY 31st May 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/>
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

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 20:19-23

‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit’

1st Reading:	<i>Acts 2:1-11</i>
Psalm 103:	<i>Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 Corinthians 12:3-7</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.</i>

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover feast by the Jews and a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by Christians.

For Christians, Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. It is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery — the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus — culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus’ disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church with the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we experience the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Christian Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus’ promise to his apostles that they would receive “power from on high.” There was first “*a noise like a strong driving wind.*” Then there were “*tongues as of fire*” resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the apostles began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, and everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand them “*in his own tongue.*” Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing love and strong Faith. This “*anointing by the Holy Spirit*” also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

In today's Gospel we see the encounter between the Risen Jesus, as He gives his apostles a foretaste of Pentecost on the evening of Easter Sunday. Entering the still locked Upper Room, Jesus greets them, sends them to carry on the mission given him by his Heavenly Father, and empowers them to do so by breathing upon them and saying, "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*" On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfils his promise to send the Advocate or Paraclete on them – "Power from on high." The gift of the Spirit would also enable them to fulfil Jesus' commission to preach the Gospel to all nations. Today's Gospel passage also tells us how Jesus gave to the Apostles the power and authority to forgive sins. His, "*Receive the Holy Spirit,*" was immediately followed by, "*For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.*" These wonderful words, which bind together inseparably the presence of the Holy Spirit and the gift of forgiveness, are referred to directly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But they have a much wider meaning. Those words remind us of the Christian vocation we *all* have, to love and forgive as we have been loved and forgiven, in the world of today, which is often fiercely judgmental and vengeful.

On this special day for the Church, let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love. And in our present situation, it is also a good time to remember one of St. John Henry Cardinal Newman's favourite prayers, "*Come Holy Spirit:*"

"Come Holy Spirit, make our ears to hear, make our eyes to see, make our mouths to speak, make our hearts to seek, make our hands to reach out.... And touch the world with your love. Amen".

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

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

Children's Liturgy: This week we have added two lessons on Pentecost, one focusing on the events of Pentecost and the other on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have also added prayers for the five saints of the environment. Please encourage your child/children to research the lives of these saints before they engage with these prayers. <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/childrens-liturgy/>

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/>

Pentecost Sunday 31st May -National Rosary Rally

Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19.

The National Rally starts at 09:00 and runs until 21:00 across Scotland, England and Wales. The Brentwood Diocese has been allotted the 11:00 slot. Please join Deacon Des as he livestreams the Rosary from the Church.

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

Rosary Link: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/adoration-and-rosary/>

As a member of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, Fr. Lee will be also be taking part in the Rally at 16:00, however this will not be livestreamed.

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.



Norbertines of St. Philip's Priory, Chelmsford – Vocations Week

From the 8th - 12th June, after the Solemnity of OHF Norbert, the Norbertines of St. Philip's Priory will be focusing their social media on the topic of vocations to the Premonstratensian Order. Fr. Stephen, the Sub-Prior and Vocations Director, will be sharing daily videos and information on life and work at the Priory. These can be viewed via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/norbertines and YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UchlkkivPXvddwvUOQzd9itA

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.



Broadband

Our new Broadband service is due to commence on Wednesday 3rd June. We are hoping it will go smoothly, however, it may cause some disruption to our livestreaming of Mass on this day. Please refer to our Facebook page, and for those of you on the email list, emails, regarding any distribution caused. Hopefully, our new service will provide us with better livestreaming quality. Thank you.

Mass Times and Intentions (no public attendance)

Saturday 30 th May	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish
PENTECOST SUNDAY Year A		
Sunday 31 st May <i>Day of Prayer for the Church</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Myra Bettles (Nee O'Neill) (RIP) (D O'Neill)
Monday 1 st June <i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Tuesday 2 nd June <i>Whit Tuesday (1962 Calendar)</i>	Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m.	
Wednesday 3 rd June <i>St. Charles Lwanga & his Comps</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 4 th June <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ The Eternal High Priest</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Friday 5 th June <i>St. Boniface</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Saturday 6 th June <i>St. Norbert</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
MOST HOLY TRINITY Year A		
Sunday 7 th June <i>The Most Holy Trinity</i> <i>1st Reading: Exodus 34:4-6</i> <i>Psalm: Daniel 3:52</i> <i>2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13</i> <i>Gospel: John 3:16-18</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish

