

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES 28th June 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: Matthew 16:13-19

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven'

1st Reading:	<i>Acts 12:1-11</i>
Psalms 33:	<i>From all my terrors the Lord set me free.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today is the wonderful Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. Both these Saints died as Martyrs for the Faith in Rome. Peter was crucified upside down, a sign of humility that he did not want to be crucified upright as Jesus was, due to his unworthiness. Paul was beheaded by the sword in the place today that is called Tre Fontane (Three Fountains), where legend says that three fountains sprang up in the places where his head bounced on the ground.

Peter was buried on top of Vatican Hill, which is now the site of St. Peter's Basilica, with the main altar built over the site of his tomb. Likewise, in the spot where Paul was buried now stands the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, with the tomb lying directly under the main altar. St. Peter's is probably the most famous and most visited, but if you have never been, I would urge you to visit St. Paul outside the walls.

These two martyrs are an inspiration to us all. Peter was fiery and impetuous. The wonderful 'Jesus of Nazareth' TV series from years ago portrayed him as quite an angry man but one who was chosen by Jesus to safeguard his flock. "You are Peter, and, on this rock, I will build my Church." Yet, despite all his protestations of loyalty, Peter denied Christ three times on Holy Thursday. In Jesus' moment of need his chosen man ran away.

Paul, a trained Pharisee spent a considerable time hunting down and persecuting Christians. He stood by and held the cloaks of those who stoned to death the first Martyr of the Church, St. Stephen the Deacon. Hardly a candidate for service to Jesus, let alone a future Saint!!

However, God's ways are not our ways, and the example of these two Saints show us very clearly that God has a plan for each of us and uses our faults and our talents in the most unworthy of us. To Peter, and all his successors, were given the keys to the Kingdom, with the promise from Christ that his Church would

always prevail. Paul, on his many travels, brought the Gospel to Non-Jews; the reason today that we are called the Universal Church, the fulfilment of the Old covenant and the realisation of the New Covenant manifest in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Let us always hold Peter and Paul as reminders that despite our faults and failings, God loves us and calls us still.

Deacon Des

Collective Acts of Worship – 4th July 2020

As you know the Prime Minister confirmed on Tuesday 23rd June that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship. This is welcome news and now enables us to celebrate Mass together again from 4th July. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer our first public Mass on Saturday 4th July at 6:00pm.

We are awaiting instructions from the Government and Diocese on how we can hold Mass whilst keeping the appropriate social distancing and the other measures in place to avoid all unnecessary risk.

To assist with our planning, we are looking for an indication of who will be returning to Mass and get an understanding as to which Mass time is of preference. Therefore, we are asking if you could call Fr Lee at the Presbytery (814 349) or email Clair at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org by noon on Wednesday (1st July) with your preferred Mass time either Saturday at 6:00pm or Sunday morning at 10:00am and how many of you would attend. Fr Lee has sought permission from Bishop Alan to add a further Mass on a Sunday morning, but has not received a response at the time of writing.

If you know of people in our Parish that may not have seen this request could we ask that you make them aware. Please note, this is not a booking for Mass but an indication to assist us with the planning and help us understand how we can ensure Masses are held within the government guidelines and keep everyone safe.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. Plans for the reinstatement of Mass are ever-changing, so please continue to check the website, Facebook page and Newsletter for updates and information.

As mentioned before, we shall continue to livestream Masses on our YouTube page that can be accessed via our website.

Livestream Masses

Please note the Mass times for this coming week (w/c 29th June). We shall continue to share Mass with you via our YouTube page: <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	18:00 hrs
Sunday	10:00 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/>

Private Prayer

The Church will be open at the following times for private prayer:

Monday	11:00 hrs – 12:00hrs – Over 70's & people with underlying medical conditions only
Tuesday	13:00 hrs – 15:00hrs
Wednesday	13:00 hrs – 15:00hrs
Thursday	11:00 hrs – 12:00hrs – Over 70's & people with underlying medical conditions only
Friday	13:00 hrs – 15:00hrs
Saturday	13:00 hrs – 15:00hrs
Sunday	13:00 hrs – 15:00hrs

Entry to the church will be via the front doors, with a one-way system operating inside the church. Exit can be made via the fire exit doors in St. Theresa's room. You will be asked to sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the church. We also ask that you listen to and respect the Stewards at all times. Please be aware that the church toilets will **not** be open to members of the public and children under the age of 16 coming to pray must be accompanied by an adult. Various posters and signs will be on display to assist with the new guidelines.

Please note that these may be subject to change so please check our website <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/keep-in-touch/private-prayer/>, Facebook page and Newsletter for updates.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their support, without which, we wouldn't have been able to reopen the church for private prayer.

Children's Liturgy

We have added more collective worship information regarding the Beatitudes and a look at Saint Francis. Why not take a look: <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.



Gift Aid – Annual Statements

We would like to thank all parishioners for their continuing generosity in the donations made to Parish funds. Without this important source of income, we would not be able to continue to do the things we do.

This year we will not be printing and handing out the annual Gift Aid statements to all donors who have completed Gift Aid Declarations. Many of you have told us in the past that you do not need them.

So from this year, if you require an annual statement of your Gift Aided donations for the tax year ended on 5 April 2020, whether to assist with the completion of tax returns, or for any other purpose, please ask for one by emailing Angelo at : stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org and a statement will be sent to you as a ‘pdf’ attachment to the response email. No more paper or envelopes, which will be good for the environment, and save costs.

If you have any questions about Gift Aid, or would like to Gift Aid all your donations to the Parish (you must be a UK tax payer), please contact Angelo via the email above.



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 started a parish WhatsApp group at the beginning of the pandemic. 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 until 4th July)

Saturday 27 th June	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Laurence McCreanor (RIP) S. Wood
SS PETER AND PAUL - Year A		
Sunday 28 th June <i>SS Peter and Paul</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 29 th June	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Over 70's & people with underlying medical conditions only	
Tuesday 30 th June <i>Commemoration of S Paul</i>	Mass (Latin): 10:00 a.m. Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 1 st July	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	
Thursday 2 nd July	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm Over 70's & people with underlying medical conditions only	
Friday 3 rd July <i>St. Thomas, Apostle</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Gillian Taylor (RIP) T. Aldridge
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 4 th July Public acts of worship resume	Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Ronnie Jackson (RIP) M. Jackson
Sunday 5 th July <i>1st Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10</i> <i>Psalm: 144</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 8:9</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Private Prayer: 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	People of the Parish

