

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 2nd August 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 • 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: Matthew 14:13-21

“They all ate as much as they wanted”

1st Reading:	<i>Isaiah 55:1-3</i>
Psalm 144:	<i>You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Romans 8:35, 37-39</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.</i>

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

Told no less than six times in the four Gospels, the event of the loaves and fish is the only miracle so emphasised. This is the only miracle, other than the Resurrection, that is told in all four Gospels, a fact that speaks of its importance to the early Church. [Compare Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, and John 6:1-14]. The miraculous feeding narrative expresses the conviction that, through Jesus, we share in God’s own abundance and in the promises made to God’s covenant people: “The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs,” we sing as our Responsorial Psalm (Ps 145) refrain today.

Matthew says that there were about 5,000 men, not including women and children. According to some commentators, this means that there could have been as many as 20,000-30,000 people present. The miracle suggests the Old Testament story of the people of Israel being fed with manna in the wilderness, as well as that of the multiplying of oil and bread by Elisha. The story should be treated as a witness to the power of God and an implicit declaration of Jesus’ Divinity. In the Synoptic accounts (Matthew, Mark & Luke), the account also shows Christ empowering the disciples, to whom He gives the loaves and fish to distribute to the crowd, to continue his works of compassion.

We may regard the incident both as a miracle of Divine providence and as a Messianic sign in which Jesus multiplied loaves and fish in order to feed his hungry listeners. The lesson for every Christian is that, no matter how impossible his or her assignment may seem, with Divine help it can be done because “nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). The twelve baskets clearly represent the twelve tribes of Israel as well as the twelve apostles who are part of the New Israel. They will become the twelve sources transmitting God’s generous comfort and aid to His people.

Today's readings tell us that God really cares about His people and that there is enough and more than enough for everybody. Studies show that the world today produces enough food in grain alone to provide every human being on the planet with 3,600 calories a day, not counting such foods as crops, vegetables, beans, nuts, fruits, meats, and fish. Over the past twenty-five years, food production has exceeded world population growth by about 16%. This means that there is no good reason for any human being in today's world to go hungry. Yet today, many men, women and children in this country and around the world will wake up hungry and struggle to have even the basic requirements most of us take for granted.

It is too easy to blame God, too easy to blame governments, too easy to see these things as other people's problems. They are also our problems. That is the meaning of the Eucharist we celebrate here today. In other words, as Christians we have to commit ourselves to share and to work with God in communicating His compassion to all. God is a caring Father, but He wants our co-operation. That's what the early Christians did, generously sharing what they had with the needy. They were convinced that everything they needed to experience a fulfilling life was already there, in the gifts and talents of the people around them. People of our time have to be encouraged to share, even when they think they have nothing to offer. Whatever we offer through Jesus will have a life-giving effect in those who receive it. We are shown two attitudes in John's account (John 6:7-9) of the Gospel story: that of Philip and that of Andrew. Philip said, in effect: "The situation is hopeless; nothing can be done." But Andrew's attitude was: "I'll see what I can do, and I will trust Jesus to do the rest." Let us have Andrew's attitude.

Deacon Des

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.



Parish News

First Holy Communion Programme 2021: As we write, with the limitations on practice currently in place, we are not sure how the First Holy Communion programme will look for the coming year of preparations. However, it would be helpful to focus our minds by inviting interest in joining the programme.

If you have a child who will be starting the school Year 3 this September, and you would like your child to be a part of the programme, then please contact Clair, the Parish Administrator, at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Please give your name, your child's name and your contact email, address and telephone number.

Donations: Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated notwithstanding that during these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. While we are currently unable to circulate the basket for donations at Mass, should you wish to make a donation, baskets are located at the exit doors as you leave the church.

Many of you have been able to use up old Gift Aid envelopes to make your donations. Gift Aid envelopes for the current financial year are available; should you wish to have them, please contact Clair in the office and she will arrange for them to be delivered to you.

We know that many of you are not comfortable with handling cash, nor do you use electronic banking. Should you prefer to use a cheque, this is acceptable.

Alternatively, you can make your donation before or after attending Mass on the website <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/donations/>. Please ensure that 'Stansted Mountfitchet – St. Theresa of Lisieux' is selected. There is a box to tick for those who wish their donation to be Gift Aided - even if you have not completed a Gift Aid Declaration. Any funds donated will come in full to the Parish. You can also set up a standing order, whether or not your donation is Gift Aided. This is the case even if you have traditionally donated using envelopes. Should you wish to start making donations by standing order, please email stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details.

Sunday Coffee morning: We are now able to attend Mass in person, however, we are not yet able to hold our coffee mornings in person. If you would like to socialise virtually then why not join us for a chat and a short fun quiz from the comfort of your own home? The Coffee morning is held every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. via the following Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024819984> Meeting ID: 830 2481 9984 Password: CM24Thrsx - All are welcome.

Weekday Masses: Please note there are currently no weekday Masses whilst Fr. Lee has his summer break. Weekday masses will recommence on **Monday 17th August**. Weekend Masses will continue as normal during this time.

Thank you: To all my dear friends at St. Theresa's, especially the Wednesday Group. Thank you all for your prayers, cards and 'phone calls after my recent operation. It meant so much to me. God bless you all. Barbara Broad.

Mass Times and Intentions

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
<p>Saturday 1st August <i>Our Lady's Saturday</i> <i>St. Alphonsus Liguori</i></p>	<p>Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>	<p>Annie & Edward Tarrant (RIP) (M&T Rhead)</p>
<p>Sunday 2nd August</p>	<p>Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>	<p>People of the Parish</p>
<p>Monday 3rd August</p>	<p>No Weekday Mass</p>	
<p>Tuesday 4th August <i>St. John Mary Vianney</i></p>	<p>No Weekday Mass</p>	
<p>Wednesday 5th August</p>	<p>No Weekday Mass</p>	
<p>Thursday 6th August <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i></p>	<p>No Weekday Mass</p>	
<p>Friday 7th August</p>	<p>No Weekday Mass</p>	
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
<p>Saturday 8th August <i>St. Dominic, priest</i></p>	<p>Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>	
<p>Sunday 9th August <i>1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13</i> <i>Psalm: 84</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33</i></p>	<p>Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>	



**PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU
AND DISPOSE OF IT RESPONSIBLY. THANK YOU.**