

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year A FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12<sup>th</sup> July 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](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) • [www.sttheresastansted.org](http://www.sttheresastansted.org)

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr. Lee Bennett [frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 814349

**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Des Connors [desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Clair Rava [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 816889

(Office Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

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## Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

*‘A sower went out to sow’*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Isaiah 55:10-11</i>
<b>Psalm 64:</b>	<i>Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>Romans 8:18-23</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.</i>

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## This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 13, repeats seven parables Jesus taught on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The parable of the sower is the first. This parable is a story of God’s prodigality, sowing seeds right and left, in abundant measure, so that we constantly receive the word in our hearts from a merciful and generous sower. God is always scattering the seeds of His kingdom around us whether we deserve them or not, so that when the soil of our hearts is ready for the seed to germinate, the seed is already there. Even the tiniest seed of God’s love can produce in us a harvest beyond our imagining. The Church is prodigal too. It brings the Gospel to the furthest reaches of the earth. To the jungles in the Amazon, the favelas in Brazil, the wealthy and the poor, the persecuted and the persecutors. None are refused. The power of God’s word always prevails if we allow it to. Using the parable of the sower in today’s Gospel, Jesus assured his disciples that the “Good News” he preached would produce the intended effect in spite of opposition and controversy and uses four different soil-types to represent four separate responses people can give to God’s saving word. In fact, each one of us may display all four different types of soil at various time in our personal lives.

**1) The soil along the path.** This soil is too hard to absorb the seed. Soon the birds eat it up or passers-by trample it under foot. Jesus explains that this soil is like the person who hears the word of God without letting it sink in. The seed/word is then replaced by worldly concerns. This type of soil represents people whose hearts and/or minds are closed because of laziness, prejudice, fear, pride, or immoral living. You and I are called to “sow” God’s word in our children, and to live out the values that Jesus “sowed” in us through his Church; but first we must open our hardened hearts and become true disciples (CCC #546).

**2) The soil that fell on rock.** This soil-type represents emotional people who are always looking for novelties but never take a permanent interest in anything. Jesus explains that this kind of person is at first impressed by the message but quickly loses interest because of the effort needed to keep the word alive.

**3) The soil that fell amongst thorns.** This soil represents people addicted to evil habits and tendencies and those whose hearts are filled with hatred, jealousy, fear, and greed. They are interested only in acquiring money by any means and in enjoying life in any way possible. The concerns of the world grow around them and choke them.

**4) The good soil.** This soil-type represents the people who hear the word of God and diligently keep it. They have open hearts filled with holiness and humility. They are eager to hear the word and ready to put it into practice. They are attentive to the Holy Spirit. Fortunately, the Gospel is filled with people who have accepted the Lord's message and whose lives have been changed. In them, Jesus' words, despite obstacles and barriers, will produce the Kingdom.

What kind of soil are we? How do we respond to the Word of God and to the various Acts of God in our lives? Do we allow the trials and tribulations of this world to overwhelm the tender seed growing within us? Do we pull back when people harass us because we are believers? Do we decide, because things are not working out the way we think they ought, that God doesn't care for us, or that He is powerless, weak, and not to be heeded? Do we allow the cares of this world, our ambitions, or our desires for success and happiness, to choke out the messages that God sends us through the various events of our daily lives and through the various people we encounter? How we respond to the Word of God is the key to how fruitful the Gospel is going to be in our lives. Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to sow seeds of encouragement, joy, and reconciliation regardless of the "soil" on which it is scattered, and to imitate the seed's total giving of self that becomes the harvest of Gospel justice and mercy.

Deacon Des

## **Prayer & Liturgy**

**Livestream Masses:** We shall continue to share Mass with you via our YouTube page <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/>

**The Latin Mass:** Takes place each Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this Mass.

## **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.**

## Parish News

**First Reconciliations and First Holy Communion:** Thank you to the Parish for the continued prayers for our First Holy Communion children. I know the prayers have had to go on longer this year but all to the good ... the children have remained enthusiastic in anticipation of their special day. There has been no hiatus with the programme, and work has continued every day during Lent and every two weeks in the usual pattern after that. These children are so well prepared and their stamina (and that of the parents) has been amazing.

Our aim, when forced into lockdown, was to make First Holy Communion a priority at the point of return and so here we are at long last. This Saturday (11<sup>th</sup>) the children will make their First Reconciliations and so please remember them in your prayers this weekend. Over the next two weeks we are making final preparations for the First Holy Communion Mass which will look different than any we have ever known. Clearly this will be new to the children as well as us and so we want to prepare as best we can for the changes and differences. Sadly, the First Holy Communion Mass will need to be separate from the Parish Masses so that we can ensure all guidance is strictly kept and therefore, this year, the Mass will be for the children and immediate family only on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Some children may, by now, have outgrown their special clothes for the day but in contrast this additional growth has led to a deeper understanding at this point on faith journey. They are well prepared, eager and excited. Please remember them in your prayers as we build towards July 18<sup>th</sup> and especially on the day perhaps making a special prayer at 3:00 p.m. Pray that this will be the start of a long communion with God as they develop a deeper and abiding relationship with our Loving Father.

### Recap of Instructions for Mass

- Please remember to book a slot every week for the weekend Masses; if you are not tech savvy, please ask someone to book a slot for you.
- Please do not turn up “on spec” on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning, we really have no wish to turn people away from Mass, but when we are full we are full.
- Holy Communion, for those who wish to receive it, will be given **AFTER** Mass. Please come forward as directed by the Priest/Deacon. Immediately after you have received, please leave the Church, following “the one-way system”.
- You cannot receive Holy Communion whilst wearing gloves. Please remove these before sanitising your hands with the hand sanitiser and coming to Holy Communion.
- Please do not come to Mass if you are isolating or show any symptoms of illness.
- Please do not reserve seats in Church for friends. Everyone will be seated by a steward working to a plan from those who have booked a place.
- The toilets in Church will remain closed.
- All aspects of the liturgy, including readings, ministering of Holy Communion, setting for and clearing away from Mass will be carried out by the Priest and Deacon to minimise risks.
- Above all, please be patient. It is a difficult and strange situation and we are seeking to implement plans set by a number of different people with different agendas, and we are all doing our best to keep you safe and to return us all to the Sacraments of the Church.

## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A</b>		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July <i>St. Bonaventure (1962)</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass (Latin): <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July <i>St. Bonaventure</i>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July <i>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
<b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A</b>		
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	<b>Russell Wood (RIP)</b> (S. Wood)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July <i>1st Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19</i> <i>Psalms: 85</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43</i>	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	<b>People of Parish</b>



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