

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year A SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19<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 13:24-43

*‘Let them both grow ‘til harvest’*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Wisdom 12:13, 16-19</i>
<b>Psalms 85:</b>	<i>O Lord, you are good and forgiving.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>Romans 8:26-27</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.</i>

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## This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

In today’s Gospel, Jesus compares the “Kingdom of Heaven” to a treasure hidden in a field, to a pearl of great value and to a net thrown in the sea collecting all types of fish. The “Kingdom of Heaven,” synonymous in these parables with the “Kingdom of God,” is hidden, but it is of surpassing value. The three parables illustrate the opportunity as well as the challenge of discipleship. The first and the second parables speak of the total commitment and dedication which are the ideal of every follower of Christ. What the parables really teach us is that, when one discovers Jesus and his vision of life, everything else becomes secondary.

“The parables are very alike, but it is interesting to note the differences: the treasure means abundance of gifts; the pearl indicates the beauty of the Kingdom. The treasure is something stumbled upon; the pearl, the result of a lengthy search - but in both instances, the finder is filled with joy. Faith, vocation, true wisdom, desire for heaven, are things that sometimes are discovered suddenly and unexpectedly, and sometimes after much searching ... However, the man’s attitude is the same in both parables and is described in the same terms: ‘he goes and sells all that he has and buys it’: detachment and generosity are indispensable for obtaining the treasure.” (The Navarre Bible: Gospels and Acts). “God’s presence and reign are often hidden below the surface of life, but we experience little epiphanies of it at surprising, unplanned moments.” (The Lectionary Commentary, Vol. 3: The Gospels).

Jesus concludes his parables by advising the listeners to imitate wise scribes (Jewish scholars - the experts in the Law and/or Scriptures). Hence, a scholar need not give up his scholarship when he becomes a Christian; rather he should use it for Christ. Such a scribe, Jesus tells us, is one *who brings forth from his storeroom both the old and the new*. Already trained in the meanings of all the stories and wise sayings from the Old Testament, such scribes, when they teach the Gospel to new believers, are able to show that all Jesus’ teachings and deeds are truly the “fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets.” Thus, they demonstrate that Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven does not destroy, but genuinely reinterprets, the Jewish

tradition to show its full Truth for all ages. Jesus does not replace what we call the Old Testament with the New Testament. He is combining the best of the Hebrew Scriptures with the New Way, the Kingdom of God. The wise ones, the scribes of the Kingdom, therefore, know how to use what is old and what is new.

This is a powerful message for all of us. We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, status or pleasure. Often, we are locked into regrets over the past, or focused too much on the future. As a result, the enriching present passes us by, and the treasure is never discovered. Thus, the really valuable pearl of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven is never found. Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. Right now, it is for us to use the time given to us to go in search of the pearl of great price and to help others in their search. We are challenged to search and discern where the Lord is calling us so that we may know what path to take. Let us remember that whenever we fight against discrimination; whenever we trust completely in God; whenever our selflessness conquers selfishness; whenever our love overcomes sin and our Faith overcomes suffering; whenever we render humble service to others, we are doing the will of God as it is done in Heaven, hence, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth.

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 Holy Communion:** Please pray for the First Holy Communion children that received our Lord for the first time this weekend. Please pray for them, their families, and friends. Also, the catechists who have worked hard with them this year. Thank you.

**Confirmation:** Please pray for the Confirmandi who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next week. Please pray for them, their families, and friends. Also, the catechists who have worked hard with them this year. Thank you.

**Donations:** We are unable to circulate the basket for donations at Mass. If you wish to make a donation when you return to church, there will be baskets located at the exit doors for you to use as you leave the church.

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](mailto:stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for details.

During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.

**Weekday Masses:** Please note that from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July no weekday Masses will be held for three weeks whilst Fr Lee has his summer break. Weekday masses will recommence on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Weekend Masses will continue as normal during this time.

### 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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
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	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 20 <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 21 <sup>st</sup> July <i>St. Lawrence of Brindisi</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass (Latin): <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July <i>St. Bridget of Sweden</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Friday 24 <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>	
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 25 <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>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July <i>1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12</i> <i>Psalms: 118</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52</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>James Braeckman (RIP)</b> (H Braeckman)  <b>Mary Lappin (RIP)</b> (Lappin Family)



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