

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 16th August 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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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: Luke 1:39-56

‘The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly’

1st Reading: *Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10*

Psalm 44: *On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:20-26*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Marys has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.*

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

The Feast of the Assumption is one of the most important feasts of our Lady. Catholics believe in the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. We believe that when her earthly life was finished, Mary was taken up, body and soul, into Heavenly glory, where the Lord exalted her as Queen of Heaven. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 966). The Assumption is the feast of Mary’s total liberation from death and decay, the consequences of original sin.

It is also the remembrance of the day when the Church gave official recognition to the centuries-old belief of Christians about the Assumption of their Heavenly mother. In the Orthodox Church, the koimesis, or dormitio (“falling asleep”), of the Virgin began to be commemorated on August 15 in the 6th century. The observance gradually spread to the West, where it became known as the feast of the Assumption. By the 13th century, the belief had been accepted by most Catholic theologians, and it was a popular subject with Renaissance and Baroque painters.

On this important feast day, we try to answer two questions: 1) What is meant by “Assumption?” 2) Why do we believe in Mary’s Assumption into Heaven, despite the fact that there is no reference to it in the Bible? “Assumption” means that after her death, Mary was taken into Heaven, both body and soul, as a reward for her sacrificial cooperation in the Divine plan of Salvation. “On this feast day, let us thank the Lord for the gift of the Mother, and let us pray to Mary to help us find the right path every day” (Pope Benedict XVI).

In May 1946, with the Encyclical *Deiparae Virginis Mariae* Pius XII called for a broad consultation, inquiring among the Bishops and, through them, among the clergy and the People of God as to the possibility and opportuneness of defining the bodily assumption of Mary as a dogma of faith. The result



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was extremely positive: only six answers out of 1,181 showed any reservations about the revealed character of this truth. It was on November 1st, 1950, that, through the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII officially declared the Assumption as a Dogma of Catholic Faith and put into words a belief held by the faithful for over 1500 years.

‘Way back in AD 325, the Council of Nicaea spoke of the Assumption of Mary. Writing in AD 457, the Bishop of Jerusalem said that when Mary’s tomb was opened, it was “found empty. The apostles judged her body had been taken into Heaven.” Pope Pius XII based his declaration of the Assumption on both tradition and theology. The uninterrupted tradition in the Eastern Churches starting from the first century, the apocryphal first-century book, *Transitus Mariae*, and the writings of the early Fathers of the Church, such as St. Gregory and St. John Damascene, supported and promoted the popular belief in the Assumption of Mary. There is a tomb at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where ancient tradition says that Mary was laid. But there is nothing inside. There are no relics, as with the other saints. This is acceptable negative evidence of Mary’s Assumption. Besides, credible apparitions of Mary, though not recorded in the New Testament, have been recorded from the 3rd century till today.

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

Change in Guidelines – Face Coverings: Face coverings will be mandatory in Places of Worship from Saturday 8th August 2020. All those who are attending churches must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so or under the age of 11. This is for the good of all who gather in the Church for Mass as it is an enclosed public space where there are people from differing households who they do not normally meet. Therefore people who are not exempt must wear a face covering when attending Mass at St. Theresa’s Church.

Holy Communion: Please note that following the guidelines issued by the Bishops of England and Wales, **communion on the tongue is presently not permitted and can only be received in the hand.** Parishioners are asked to wait in their pews until instructed to move forward for Holy Communion by the



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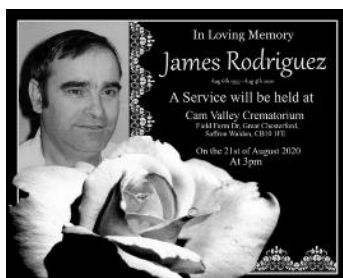
Stewards, always being aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue. When you approach Fr. Lee/Deacon Des, please do so with arms at “full stretch” to maintain good distance. one on top of the other forming a ‘throne’. **Once received, cover the host with the free hand to ensure it is not dropped, and then move to the right, away from the Fr. Lee/Deacon Des. Pause and unloop your face mask, consume the blessed sacrament and then re-apply your mask and leave the church. Under no circumstances should the host be consumed after leaving the church.**

Maintaining Social Distancing before and after Mass: Please make note of the guidance issued by the Bishops of England and Wales. Worshippers should limit their interactions with anyone they are not attending church with, i.e. if they are attending corporate worship with one other household, wherever possible they should maintain social distancing with anyone outside of this group.

Please do not congregate outside the church, this also includes the grounds and the car park. Thank you.

Safeguarding: During these unusual times it is a sad fact that some people will use the vulnerability of others for their own gain and gratification. We have published, on our website, details from Essex Police regarding current scams taking place in the area. Please take time to refer to this helpful information so we can continue keeping the people of our parish safe.

James Rodriguez: The Cremation service for the late James Rodriguez will take place on Friday 21st August at 3:00 p.m. at Cam Valley Crematorium. The family would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend. Eternal Rest grant unto James O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace, Amen.



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.

Weekday Masses: Weekday masses will recommence tomorrow, **Monday 17th August.**



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Mass Times and Intentions

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - Year A		
Saturday 15 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	C&D Deane-Bowers - Golden Wedding Anniversary (C&D Deane-Bowers)
Sunday 16 th August <i>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 17 th August	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Tuesday 18 th August	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 19 th August	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Thursday 20 th August <i>St. Bernard, Abbot, Doctor</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Frank McAllister (RIP) (R McAllister-Jones)
Friday 21 st August <i>St. Pius X, Pope</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Brother Gildas Parry O’Praem - Making solemn profession of vows (Fr. Lee)
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 22 nd August <i>Our Lady, Mother and Queen</i>	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Sunday 23 rd August <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23</i> <i>Psalm: 137</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i>	



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



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