

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 20th September 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

'Why be envious because I am generous?'

1st Reading:	<i>Isaiah 55:6-9</i>
Psalm 144:2-3,8-9,17-18:	<i>The Lord is close to all who call him</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Philippians 1:20-24,27</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 laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who hires labourers for his vineyard to show us the kind of labour relations that God has with us.

In Jesus' time, the Jews had the mentality that salvation could and must be earned simply by keeping the law and its commands. Jesus was strongly against that conception and said that nobody should think that he had earned his salvation or anything from God. He could only be grateful before him.

In this parable, Jesus teaches grace and mercy and shapes our attitudes according to the truth that God's gift of salvation is free. The men in the parable who had worked all day believed that the men who had worked less than they would receive less. When seeing that all workers received the same amount, they got upset and cried "not fair." The Landowner replied, "Are you envious because I am generous?" Justice is about merit; generosity is about need. These workers talked justice, but God talked generosity and mercy.

Theologians of all times had tried to reconcile God's justice and his mercy. But St. Therese of Lisieux simply said, "God's justice is his mercy." God is just but he is also merciful. If God were strictly just to us, we would all be in trouble. The good news is that God is more than just to us, he is generous. This is where our hope stands.

When we see someone else is more successful than we are, we should not be envious but assume that there is a reason for it. We can become pre-occupied with the injustice we see around us, especially when wrongdoing and the wrongdoer seems to go unpunished. We have no control, and no right to pass judgement on the way that God bestows blessings on others, we should only look for the blessings we receive and give thanks for them.



Please familiarise yourselves with the location of the fire exits, extinguishers and assembly points at this church.

God said to Isaiah, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways,”. Let’s be grateful to God for his goodness, his love, and his mercy.

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

Mass Numbers: The good news is that over the last few weeks attendance at the 18:00 vigil Mass has been growing. It is truly wonderful to see you all coming to celebrate the Eucharist of the Lord. The not so good news is that, as you know, we are limited on the number of parishioners that can attend Mass and the Vigil Mass is nearing our current capacity. We would prefer not to turn people away should these numbers continue to increase and need to revert to the booking system. Perhaps you may be able to help by considering the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass where there is still capacity. Additionally, with the revoked obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday, our weekday Masses have more capacity if you are able to attend those. We are trying to ensure that everyone who would like, can have the opportunity to attend Mass. Thank you.

Our Lady of Walsingham – Thursday 24th September: This Thursday we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Walsingham. Within the Ordinariate this is a Solemnity. As Fr. Lee, is an Ordinariate priest, he will be celebrating this Mass using Divine Worship: The Missal. All are welcome to attend the Mass.

Face Coverings: Face coverings are mandatory in Places of Worship and are required unless you are exempt from doing so or under the age of 11.

Holy Communion: 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 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.



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Church Volunteer – Can you help? We are still in need of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer your services to steward, please contact Clair via the parish email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org with your name, contact details, and the times/days you could be available each week. Should you have any questions as to duties please feel free to contact Fr. Lee or Deacon Des.

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.

The Giving Machine: You are now able to donate to our church via the Giving Machine. Locate our cause page via the link below and select the 'Donate Now' button, allowing you to donate directly to us. You don't need to be signed up as a giver on The Giving Machine to donate, however, you will be asked to cover the 26p transaction fee. You will be given the choice of adding this to your donation or having it deducted from your donation. Your support is much appreciated.

Visit <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/st-theresas-catholic-church-stansted-mountfitchet/>

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? Held every Sunday at 11.10 a.m. via the following Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024819984> Meeting ID: 830 2481 9984 Password: CM24Thrsx - All are welcome.

Golden Jubilee of Our Parish: This coming Friday 25th September, will commemorate 50 Years of Our Parish in its own right. To commemorate this historic event, a Prayer Card has been produced and will be placed inside the Newsletters over the weekend of 26th and 27th September. I wish everyone a Happy Jubilee. Tony Aldridge, Jubilee Committee.



*St Theresa Stansted
25th September 1970 - 2020
Golden Jubilee*



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Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 19 th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Ints. for K O'Brien & T McKnight on their Wedding Day (Fr. L Bennett)
Sunday 20 th September <i>Home Mission Day</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>	Hanh Tran RIP (W.Dodd) People of the Parish
Monday 21 st September <i>St. Matthew</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	
Tuesday 22 nd September <i>St Thomas of Villanova</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass (EF) (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 23 rd September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Ebenezer Barrett RIP (G Barrett)
Thursday 24 th September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass (DW): 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Ints. The Personnel Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham
Friday 25 th September	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	50th Anniversary of Parish
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 26 th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Bridget McCreanor RIP (S.Wood)
Sunday 27 th September <i>1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28</i> <i>Psalm: 244:4-9</i> <i>2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32</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>	People of the Parish



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



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