

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 27th 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 21:28-32

'He thought better of it and went.

Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.'

1st Reading:	<i>Ezekiel 18:25-28</i>
Psalm 24(25):4-9:	<i>Remember your mercy, Lord.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Philippians 2:1-11</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's scripture passages remind us that our final decision for or against God is what is important because that is what we will be rewarded for or not as the case may be. In the first reading, Ezekiel brings a message to the people of Israel concerning the objections raised by those who felt that God was wrong to place so much emphasis on a person's final decision. How can it be fair that, a person who has been virtuous and faithful all of their life, who then turns away from God and chooses sin will be punished, yet another person, who has led a bad life, finally finds God and chooses to end their days in virtue, will be rewarded?

Paul's letter to the Philippians, also makes this point, that the final choice for God and obedience to Him is the deciding factor. This can be a hard message to understand and accept. However, as with the parable of the workers in the vineyard that we heard last week, Jesus reiterates this message in today's Gospel.

The Gospel account begins just after Jesus has entered the Temple in Jerusalem, only to find it has been turned into a marketplace and a haven for corrupt practices such as money changing. In v23 of Matthew's Gospel, the Pharisees and Chief Priests ask Jesus, "By what authority are you doing these things?" In today's passage Jesus responds with the parable of the two Sons.

In this parable, a man with two sons tells both to go out to work in the vineyard. The first son says he won't go, but later regrets it and works. The second son says he will go but does not. In each case, it is the final decision that is more important. The purpose of this parable was to give a wake-up call to the chief priests and elders. The parable hints that their position as leaders of the Chosen People and their observance of Mosaic Law gives them no guarantee that they will possess the Kingdom of God. Rather, because of their pride and their refusal to obey God's call to repentance, they will exclude themselves from that Kingdom, while the tax-collectors and sinners, whom they despise, repenting of their sins and obeying Him, will be welcomed by God into the Kingdom. What does this parable say to us today?



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Each one of us is responsible to God for every one of our actions, and the just God will punish or reward each of us according to our actions. As we do not know at what moment death will take us, our only guarantee of dying in God's friendship is to live in that friendship always, saying "Yes" to God in our deeds. We should become men and women who profess our Faith in word and deed, remembering that, "Not all those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but those who do the will of my Father Who is in Heaven" (Matthew 7:21). God is ever with us to strengthen us, to pardon us, and to lift us up again when, through human weakness, we stumble on the road. God is calling us right now, inviting us to work in His vineyard, inviting us to say "Yes" to Him with our words and actions.

All of us need to accept God's invitation by purifying our hearts before Him. We all need to resolve to act upon our promises we make to Him each morning before we get out of bed; and by declaring interiorly that people will be able to identify us as followers of Christ, not by empty words or pious gestures but simply by our Christian actions. In this way, we shall live a life filled with the joy that doing the will of the Father brings.

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 is now almost full. The 10:00 a.m. Mass last Sunday reached full capacity, which meant some people were unable to attend that Mass. 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. We would prefer not to turn people away should these numbers continue as they are and so we may 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 at this Mass. We would remind you that the obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday is still suspended. 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.

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**



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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.

Additional Mass: A reminder that on Sunday 4th October and every first Sunday of the month, in addition to our usual Mass schedule, we will celebrate the Extraordinary form Mass (Latin) at 12:00 p.m. This Mass fulfils Sunday obligation when this is reinstated.

Church Volunteer – Can you help? A huge thank you to those that volunteered to Steward and to clean the church. Just as a reminder we are forbidden to open for Mass without people stewarding and cleaning after Mass. We are in desperate need of volunteers for the month of October, without volunteers Masses will have to be cancelled. 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: Friday 25th September saw the commemoration of our Golden Jubilee, the 50th Year of being a Parish in its own right. To commemorate this historic event, a Prayer Card and leaflet has been produced and placed inside this Newsletter. 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-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>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Bridget McCreanor RIP (S.Wood)
Sunday 27 th September	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>	50th Anniversary of the Parish People of the Parish
Monday 28 th September	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	T&A Aldridge 35th Wedding Anniversary (T. Aldridge)
Tuesday 29 th September <i>Dedication of St. Michael Archangel</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass (EF) (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 30 th September <i>St. Jerome</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	John Whiting RIP The Wednesday Club
Thursday 1 st October <i>St. Theresa of the Child Jesus (of Lisieux)</i> <i>Patronal Festival</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Catherine Lewis RIP & the Lewis Family (P.Lewis)
Friday 2 nd October <i>Holy Guardian Angels</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Darren Briscoe RIP (T. Aldridge)
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 3 rd October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i>	John Whiting RIP (M&T Rhead)
Sunday 4 th October <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7</i> <i>Psalm: 79-9, 12-16, 16-20</i> <i>2nd Reading: Philippians 4:6-9</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43</i> <i>XVIII Sunday of the Pentecost</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. Live-streamed on our YouTube channel Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. Live-streamed on our YouTube channel Mass (EF) (Latin): 12:00 p.m.	People of the Parish



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



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