

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year A TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux*

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

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(Please note that the Parish Office is closed until Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, Thank you).

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## Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

*'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.'*

**1st Reading:** *Jeremiah 20:7-9*

**Psalm 62:2-6, 8-9:** *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

**2nd Reading:** *Romans 12:1-2*

**Gospel Acclamation:** *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!*

**Communion Antiphon:** *How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel reading is in stark contrast to the events in last week's Gospel where Peter makes his declaration that Jesus is the Christ. Today we find Jesus rebuking Peter for trying to deter him from the ultimate sacrifice on Calvary.

For Christians, the ultimate paradigm of sacrifice is Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary has an eternal dimension and wide ranging implications: it achieves the forgiveness of sins, it roots us more deeply in Christ, it glorifies God most perfectly, and we are brought into the love of God by the Holy Spirit. And it was Christ's sacrifice that makes us holy, not because of anything we can do or earn, but simply because God in his mercy has offered us this grace. In the New Covenant, then, the role of sacrifice has changed. Christ's sacrifice is now the source of our entering into a right relationship with God.

We are called not to earn God's mercy by our offerings, but to express our gratitude and our love for God's mercy – which we have already received through our faith in Christ's definitive sacrifice on Calvary – through our new way of life. This new way of life, this new life in Christ (the life of the Beatitudes, the life exemplified by the saints), has become our way of deepening our union with God and worshipping him. It is a new way of life based on the commandment of love and at the heart of love is sacrifice. Instead of the ritual sacrifices of the Old Covenant, we are now engaged in the great adventure of making our entire lives into a living sacrifice, an entire life "made holy" in Christ to give glory to God and to lead us to the fulfilment of everlasting union with him in heaven. Growth in discipleship is ultimately growth in the Imitation of Christ: becoming more Christ-like in our thoughts and actions. And that involves sacrifice and



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hard work. Christian existence, if lived in imitation of Christ, is thereby both a sermon to the world and a sacrifice for the world, since Christians have their share in Christ's self-sacrifice for the world. Jesus invites us to say a definite "Yes" to the scandal of the cross.

This is the reason why St. Peter in today's gospel takes offence at the cross. He does not only represent the whole of humanity but many of us Christians who wish to escape suffering as much and as long as possible. Thomas A. Kempis, the Christian writer of 'The Imitation of Christ' commented that: "Many come following Jesus who love his heavenly kingdom, but few come looking forward to suffering. Many admire His miracles, but few follow Him in humiliation to the cross." How true that is for us too: we admire Jesus, we admire his teaching, we glory in his love for us, but we are far more reticent to accept the humiliation of the cross for ourselves. But that is what is demanded of us. By inviting St. Peter and all of us to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses to follow him, Jesus spells out the paradox of the gospel, that salvation does not consist in eliminating your "I", as the Buddhist and other esoteric religions would hold, but in sacrificing your "I" for others, which cannot take place without the cross.

As Christ invites us to follow him by denying ourselves and taking up our crosses, in making this unworthy sacrifice of ourselves, we would do well to listen to the words of the great homilist, St. Peter Chrysologus, who tells us that this is what Christ wishes to say to us, "Do not be afraid. This cross inflicts a mortal injury, not on me, but on death. These nails no longer pain me, but only deepen your love for me. I do not cry out because of these wounds, but through them I draw you into my heart. My body was stretched on the cross as a symbol, not of how much I suffered, but of my all-embracing love. I count it no less to shed my blood: it is the price I have paid for your ransom. Come, then, return to me and learn to know me as your father, who repays good for evil, love for injury, and boundless charity for piercing wounds."

By our lives of sacrifice, we share in the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. In the sacrifice of the Mass, we perpetuate, make present, and apply the continuing effects of Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice on the cross. We want to offer ourselves, each of us, in his and her own heart, a living sacrifice – soul, body, mind, and will to God. This is our prayer and desire even as we come to the table of the Eucharist 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

**Additional Mass:** From Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 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?:** Firstly a big thank you to those members of the Parish that have assisted over the last few months and to those that continue to support us, without you we could not and cannot continue to open. As things slowly start to return to normal and people are returning to work, we need more volunteers. Can you help? The role involves ensuring social distancing takes place, limiting the number of people in Church at any one time (if required), directing parishioners towards the hand sanitisers and ensuring adherence to the one way system.

Sadly, the current advice is that those who are either in an ‘at-risk’ category or who are above the age of 70 cannot be part of this volunteer workforce. That means that even those of you who feel very fit and well, or are a septuagenarian or older, cannot volunteer. We are sorry about that.

We do need to have a good list of volunteers to allow us to continue meeting the requirements issued by the Bishops of England and Wales and enabling us to continue worship at St. Theresa’s.

If you would like to volunteer your services to steward, can you 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:** 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.

**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 am via the following Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83024819984> Meeting ID: 830 2481 9984 Password: CM24Thrsx - All are welcome.



## Mass Times and Intentions

| TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A  |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <p>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August<br/><i>The Martyrdom of St John the Baptist</i></p>  | <p>Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>  |                                    |
| <p>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</p>  | <p>Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>   | <p><b>People of the Parish</b></p> |
| <p>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August</p>  | <p>Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>  |                                    |
| <p>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September<br/><i>St Sebbe</i></p>   | <p>Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b><br/>                     Mass (Latin): <b>8:00 p.m.</b></p>  |                                    |
| <p>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</p>   | <p>Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>  |                                    |
| <p>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September<br/><i>St. Gregory the Great</i></p>   | <p>Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>  |                                    |
| <p>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September</p>  | <p>Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>  |                                    |
| TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year A   |   |                                    |
| <p>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September</p>  | <p>Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b><br/> <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i></p>   |                                    |
| <p>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September<br/> <i>1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9</i><br/> <i>Psalm: 94:1-2,6-9</i><br/> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10</i><br/> <i>Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20</i></p> | <p>Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b><br/>                     Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b><br/> <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i></p> <p>Mass (Latin): <b>12:00 p.m.</b><br/> <i>XIV Sunday after Pentecost</i></p> | <p><b>People of the Parish</b></p> |

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



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