

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A ALL SAINTS 1st November 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 will be closed from 23rd October until 3rd November. Thank you).

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

'Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven'

1st Reading:	<i>Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14</i>
Psalm 23:1-6:	<i>Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 John 3:1-3</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel may well be one of the most familiar in all of scripture. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel forms part of a larger dialogue which contains this litany of what it means to be 'blessed', or better known as the Beatitudes. This has been described by some commentators as the ultimate blueprint of what it means to live a Christian life.

The Beatitudes have a special significance in the context of today's feast, as it tells us how we become a saint. For many of us, being a saint is beyond our comprehension. We tend to put those revered by the Church as saints on a pedestal. Many of us will have devotion to specific saints, images and statues placed in our homes and churches, captured forever in stained glass, and churches and schools named in their honour.

Today's feast reminds us that far from being something that is unattainable, sainthood is not something that we are born into but rather something we can strive to become. A cursory examination of the lives of the saints illustrates this perfectly.

Sometimes those who become saints aren't the ones we expect. They may be the filthy, the rejected, the outcast, the homeless. People like Benedict Joseph Labre. He grew up the son of a prosperous shopkeeper but felt called to give up everything and follow Christ. He spent his life wandering from church to church in Rome. He rarely bathed, never washed his clothes. Some people were repelled by him. But the purity of his devotion and his love of God moved and inspired those who saw him day after day. When he died at the young age of 35, priests of Rome preserved his filthy clothes as relics, and they buried him in one of the churches he loved. Today, he is the patron saint of the homeless.



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

In the 1920s, if you had to pick a woman who was the least likely candidate for sainthood, it would probably have been an anarchist and communist from Brooklyn in New York City named Dorothy Day. She worked as a journalist and spent many nights drinking with famous writers like Hart Crane and Eugene O'Neill. She had an abortion, and a brief marriage, before finally being drawn to Christ, and the gospel, and converting to Catholicism. Her conversion led her to embark on a radical ministry to the poor, one that is still changing the world today. She founded the Catholic Worker Movement with houses all over the world. Dorothy Day is now a candidate for sainthood. Late in her life, people called her a living saint. "Don't call me a saint," she once said. "I don't want to be dismissed that easily."

Don't dismiss any of the saints. They are closer to us than we may realise. They have struggled with sin and temptation, they've walked the journey toward holiness, sometimes stumbling, sometimes falling, but always getting back up and moving on, resolving to do better, to be better, to aim higher.

They worked to be what this gospel is calling us to be. To be poor in spirit. To be meek. To be merciful. To make peace. This is how we begin to become what Jesus called "blessed," and what the Church calls saints.

It's a tall order. And it is nothing less than a call to greatness. But this feast day reminds us, whether we realise it or not: it can be ours. This kind of greatness is within our grasp.

All Saints Day beckons us to something beautiful. It reminds us of our great potential—the promise that lies within each of us. The promise of holiness.

It is the promise that was fulfilled in the countless people we venerate this day—our models, our companions, our inspirations, our guides. All the saints. They give us blessed hope.

Because they assure us again and again: no one is born a saint.

But every one of us, by the grace of God, can become one.

Deacon Des

Making an Act of Spiritual Communion

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

Month of Holy Souls: November is the month of prayer for Holy Souls, when we pray for all the faithful departed, those known and dear to us, and those too, who have no one to pray for them. Should you wish to please write the names of departed loved ones onto a piece of paper and once completed please bring to Mass or post through the Presbytery letter box. The names on the sheets will be kept by the altar for the month of November and will be remembered at the Masses during November. A Mass stipend can also be placed in this envelope. On Monday Mass will be offered for the Souls of Departed loved ones at 9.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Masses will also be offered for Holy Souls throughout the month of November.

Weekday Masses: Please note weekday Masses will recommence tomorrow (Monday 2nd November).

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.



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Annual Shoe Box Appeal 2020 - www.teams4u.com: Covid-19 (coronavirus), has forced us to modify how we approach our annual appeal. However, we would still ask you in your generosity to either contribute from the list below which we will use to fill boxes on your behalf. Please **do not** bring these to Church. To arrange collection the details can be found in the October Link magazine which you can find on Page 29 at <http://stanstedlink.org.uk/On%20line%20editions/2020/Oct%202020.pdf> .

If you are making up a box please enclose a slip of paper with the age group and whether it is for a boy or girl. We would really welcome more items for the older boys, as we never have enough for them. The age groups are 3-5,6-11,12+. Items can include:

- Toiletries: soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, Hairbrush, comb, hairbands
- Stationery items: paper, pens, pencils, crayons, ruler, geometry set, craft pack
- Gloves, hats, scarves, small handbags, small items of jewellery
- Soft toy or puppet, games, puzzles, bubbles (well wrapped)
- Small musical instruments
- Sweets and chocolate
- A Christmas card and photo of yourself

As we are unable to use the Parish Centre due to the COVID restrictions, we would be happy to collect the boxes from you or you can drop them on our doorsteps. If you need a shoe box, just let us know. We look forward to making this one of our best years. Thank you.

Brian and Eileen Quinn and Helen Baker.

Holy Souls

As the weather grows colder and the nights begin to draw in, it is natural that our thoughts turn to those whom we have loved who are no longer with us. How appropriate, then, that the Catholic Church offers us November, which begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

In recent years, perhaps no Catholic doctrine has been more misunderstood even by Catholics ourselves than the doctrine of Purgatory. Consequently, we tend to downplay it, even seem a little embarrassed by it, and it is the Holy Souls who suffer because of our discomfort with the doctrine.

Purgatory is not, as many people think, one last trial; all of those who make it to Purgatory will one day be in Heaven. Purgatory is where those who have died in grace, but who have not fully atoned for the temporal punishments resulting from their sins, go to finish their atonement before entering Heaven. A soul in Purgatory may suffer, but they have the assurance that they will ultimately enter Heaven when their punishment is complete. Catholics believe Purgatory is an expression of God's love, His desire to cleanse our souls of all that might keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy in Heaven.

As Christians, we don't travel through this world alone. Our salvation is wrapped up with the salvation of others, and charity requires us to come to their aid. The same is true of the Holy Souls. In their time in Purgatory, they can pray for us, and we should pray for the faithful departed that they may be freed from the punishment for their sins and enter into Heaven.

We should pray for the dead throughout the year, especially on the anniversary of their death, but in this Month of the Holy Souls, we should devote some time every day to prayer for the dead. We should start with those closest to us—our mothers and fathers, for instance—but we should also offer prayers for all the souls, and especially for those most forsaken.

We believe that those Holy Souls for whom we pray will continue to pray for us after they have been released from Purgatory. If we live Christian lives, we too will likely find ourselves in Purgatory someday, and our acts of charity toward the Holy Souls there now will ensure that they remember us before the throne of God when we are most in need of prayers. It's a comforting thought, and one that should encourage us, especially in this month of November, to offer our prayers for the Holy Souls.



Mass Times and Intentions

ALL SAINTS - Year A		
Saturday 31 st October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 st November <i>All Saints</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass (EF) (Latin): 12:00 p.m.	
Monday 2 nd November <i>All Souls</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 7:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls Holy Souls
Tuesday 3 rd November	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass of Requiem (EF) (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	Holy Souls
Wednesday 4 th November <i>St. Charles Borromeo</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Patricia Spawl RIP (T.Kemp)
Thursday 5 th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls
Friday 6 th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Rose Clarke RIP (K.Clarke)
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 7 th November	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls
Sunday 8 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i> <i>1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16</i> <i>Psalm: 62:2-8</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Those who have Fallen in Battle in Two World Wars and subsequent battles and conflicts

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



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