

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 11th October 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 22:1-14

'Invite everyone you can find to the wedding'

1st Reading:

Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalm 22:

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

2nd Reading:

Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel contains the parable of the royal banquet. It is a parable about the Kingdom of God and about the people who will eventually belong to it. It is also the first of three parables that challenge the legitimacy of the Jewish leadership. The parables all contrast the true Israel with the attitudes and lives of the Pharisees, demonstrating the claims of the Pharisees as false. In addition, the Parable of the Royal Banquet and the Wedding Garment is Jesus' interpretation of the History of Salvation. It is also one of the three parables of judgement or "rejection parables" that Jesus told at the Temple in Jerusalem during the last week of his public life, addressing the "chief priests and elders of the people," i.e., Israel's religious and civic leaders. This parable was delivered by Jesus during his last visit to the Temple — the day we know as the Tuesday of Holy Week. The encounter was part of Jesus' last confrontation with those who saw Him as their enemy, before they had him arrested. The actual parable is the disturbing story of a King who celebrated the wedding feast of his son. When the VIP guests who had been invited refused to come, he brought in street people to take their places. Here, Jesus combines the parable of the marriage feast with another rabbinic parable, the parable of the wedding garment.

Along with the parable of the landlord and the wicked tenants, this, too, is an allegory unfolding the whole of salvation history. The parable was intended to be a fitting reply to the accusation that Jesus was unfit to teach because He was mingling with the publicans and sinners. It also answers the question of Jesus' authority to teach in the Temple of Jerusalem. Jesus hints in the parable that he is befriending the sinners and preaching the Good News of God's salvation to them because the Scribes and Pharisees have rejected him and his message, while the sinners (whom they have neglected and scorned), have accepted him wholeheartedly. That is why he compares God to a King who gives orders to invite the ordinary people from the waysides as guests for his son's royal banquet. Jesus also declares that the source of his authority is God his Father who has sent His Son to preach the Good News of Salvation.



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

From the moment of our Baptism, we have been invited to the Heavenly Banquet and provided with the Wedding Garment of Sanctifying Grace. These great privileges and blessings are freely offered to all, and they are given to us who accept His Gift of Faith, by a loving God. These daily Divine invitations to salvation are to be welcomed with a willingness to be daily transformed by God's grace and according to God's will. But the same obstacles which prevented the Pharisees from entering the Kingdom — pride, love of this world, its wealth, its power, and its pleasures — can impede us, too. Hence, we must be prepared to do violence to our ordinary inclinations and to offer ourselves in love and service to Jesus and to his people. That is how we will make our Wedding Garment clean and bright every day. Receiving these gifts of God fully also demands that, instead of remaining marginal members of our parish community, we bear visible witness to our beliefs. Let us have the consoling conviction that, while as Church members we are expected to contribute actively to its life and witnessing, the forgiveness of God and of the community is always available whenever we betray its ideals in our weak moments. Therefore, let us pray that we may keep our Wedding Garments pure and spotless, and that we may become disciples who really practice the teachings of Jesus, rather than remaining mere Sunday Catholics. Let us pray for a deeper Faith, Hope, and Love and a better spirit of responsibility to our community especially during these challenging times.

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

Delayed Annual General Meeting: During the current situation brought about by the response to Covid-19 our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has continued to meet remotely using Zoom. We were due to have our Annual General Meeting open to all in July. This was postponed due to the restrictions imposed and is now likely to be delayed for some time. However, all the PPC minutes are posted onto the St. Theresa's Parish web site so we hope that this will keep all parishioners aware of our discussions. It is important to note that all of us when we meet within the parish (for worship or any other reason) we can only do so under the guidelines set by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales (www.CBCEW.org.uk). Fr. Lee and Deacon Des are obliged to ensure we all follow these rules as well as those set by the Government. Keith McDowall - Chair PPC.

Attempted Email Fraud: We have had several incidents over the last few months of someone pretending to be Fr. Lee asking for help in obtaining Amazon vouchers. Please note that neither Fr. Lee, Deacon Des or Clair would contact you to ask for such assistance, nor would they ask for any money or purchasing of goods to be made on their behalf. Should you be contacted please delete the email. Thank you. If you receive any email and have concerns as to its legitimacy, please delete it.

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 at Masses some will have to be cancelled.** If you would like to volunteer your services to steward,



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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.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School: At the moment the school is unable to offer tours due to Covid restrictions. Any parent of a child due to start school in September 2021 is welcome to make a telephone appointment with the Headteacher. There will also soon be lots of information on the school website www.stmsw.co.uk.

Annual Shoe Box Appeal 2020 - www.teams4u.com: Every year in recent times our Parish has supported the annual Christmas shoebox appeal and this year is especially important as the world reels from the impact of Covid-19. Many children have benefited from the generous benefactors of our parish who have provided either finance or shoeboxes full of gifts as well as time covering and packing shoeboxes. We are very grateful to you all. Children need great joy and love now more than ever and this is a wonderful giving opportunity we would like to continue and for our Parish to still be a part of that joy and love giving.

Covid-19 (coronavirus), has forced us to modify how we approach our annual appeal. For example, we will not be able to hold our usual wrapping and packing gatherings in the Parish Centre. However, we would still ask you in your generosity to either contribute or 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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 10 th October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	John McGinley RIP (P Vitale)
Sunday 11 th October	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	People of the Parish
Monday 12 th October <i>Ss Ethelburga, Hildelithe & Cuthberga</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
Tuesday 13 th October <i>St. Edward</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass (EF) (Latin): 8:00 p.m.	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
Wednesday 14 th October	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
Thursday 15 th October <i>St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila)</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
Friday 16 th October	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 17 th October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Live-streamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Holy Souls (Novena) (P. Zawadzki)
Sunday 18 th October <i>World Mission Day</i> <i>1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6</i> <i>Psalm: 95: 1,3-5, 7-10</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21</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	People of the Parish

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



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