

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th October 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 22:34-40

'The commandments of love'

1st Reading: *Exodus 22:20-26*

Psalm 17(18):2-4, 47,51: *I love you, Lord, my strength.*

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

A Pharisee, who believed in both the written Law and the oral tradition, observing how Jesus had defeated the Sadducee who had tried to humiliate Him with the hypothetical case of a woman who married seven husbands, asked Jesus to summarise the most important of the Mosaic Laws in one sentence. This was a challenge because, in the Judaism of Jesus' day, there was a double tendency to expand the Mosaic Law into hundreds of rules and regulations and to condense the 613 precepts of the Torah into a single sentence or few sentences. (The Pharisees identified 613 commandments in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). Two hundred and forty-eight were positive ("thou shalt") and three hundred and sixty-five were negative ("thou shalt not"). Jesus' answer teaches us that the most important commandment is to love God in loving others and to love others in loving God. In other words, we are to love God and express it by loving our neighbour because God lives in him or her. Some Bible scholars think that it was a trap question because the Pharisees believed that each one of the 613 commands (mitzot) in the Torah were equally important and necessary to obey. Therefore, they were trying to corner Jesus into showing either ignorance about the Law, or disrespect for parts of it by choosing one command over the others.

Jesus gave the Pharisee a straightforward answer, quoting directly from the Law itself, startling his listeners with his profound simplicity and mastery of the Law of God and its purpose. Jesus' answer was very orthodox, and very traditional. Jesus cited the first sentence of the Jewish Shema prayer: ... "Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5). Then He added its complementary law: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Finally, He declared that the "whole Law and the prophets" depended on the commands to love God "with all your heart, with all your soul and all your mind" and to love "your neighbour as yourself." Jesus combined the originally separate commandments and presented them as the essence of true religion. The uniqueness of Jesus' response consisted in the fact that he understood the two laws as having equal value or importance. We are to love our neighbour and ourself as a way to love God:



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

God gives us our neighbours to love so that we may learn to love Him. God contacts us daily through our neighbours. Thus, Jesus proclaims that true religion loves God both directly and as living in our neighbour.

Love of God means putting Him first, respecting His Name, and keeping His Day [the Sabbath; Sunday for us] holy. To love God means a dedication of the entire person to His will, placing Him first in one's mind and the heart, speaking respectfully about Him, and keeping His Day as one of prayer and true recreation, a day to keep His Law. Love of God transforms lives every waking moment of every day.

Love of neighbour means respect for others, their relationships, their reputations, and their property. Loving our neighbour as ourselves means looking at and treating others with the respect God gives them. This love begins at home with one's parents. It then extends to others. Love of neighbour extends beyond our family and friends to strangers, especially to the poor, the sick, and the sinner. Love of neighbour knows no national borders or class distinctions or barriers of any kind because God knows no such impediments.

Jesus underlines the principle that we are to love our neighbour as we love ourselves because both of us bear God's image, and to honour God's image is to honour Him. The love of God has priority and is our source of love for neighbour. In our neighbour we see something of God, His creature, His image and likeness, and His adopted child. So, if we love God, we must also love His image, the work of His hands. God makes daily contact with us through the people around us. Love for our neighbour is a matter, not of feelings, but of deeds by which we share with others the unmerited love that God lavishes on us. This is the love for neighbour that God commands in His law. Since the Jews considered only their fellow-Jews as neighbours, Jesus, challenged, used the parable of the Good Samaritan, as reported in Luke's Gospel, to show them what God means by "neighbour."

Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength as our response to His Love for us means that we should place God's will ahead of ours, seek the Lord's will in all things, and make it paramount in our lives. There are several means by which we can express our love for God and our gratitude to Him for His blessings, acknowledging our total dependence on Him. We must keep God's commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition. We also need to read and meditate on His word in the Bible and accept His invitation to join Him in the Mass and other liturgical functions when we can.

God's will is that we should love everyone, seeing Him in our neighbour. Since every human being is the child of God and the dwelling place of the Spirit of God, we are actually giving expression to our love of God by loving our neighbour as Jesus loves him or her. This means we need to help, support, encourage, forgive, and pray for everyone without discrimination based on colour, race, gender, age, wealth, personal attractiveness, or social status. Forgiveness, too, is vital. We love others by refusing to hold a grudge for a wrong done to us. Even a rebuke can be an act of love, if it is done with the right heart. We also express love through encouragement and by helping each other to grow. We express agape love by meeting a need that God has given us the power to meet, by comforting each other, by teaching each other and by sharing the Gospel, in deeds and in words. We express our love for our neighbour by waiting upon the aged, nursing the sick, patching up quarrels, and listening to the broken-hearted. In short, loving our neighbour is feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, meeting the basic needs of the poor, helping the unemployed, educating the young and taking care of the old.

Today, in the current situation we find ourselves in, it is more important than ever that we remember this commandment and practice perfecting it every day.

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.



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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. There is an envelope and sheet enclosed in this Newsletter for you to write the names of departed loved ones. Once completed please bring them 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. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer the 24 hour candle lighting this year. On Monday 2nd November Mass will be offered for the Souls of Departed loved ones at 9.30am and 7.30pm. Masses will also be offered for Holy Souls throughout the month of November.

Weekday Masses: Please note there are no weekday Masses this week whilst Fr. Lee is on holiday, they will recommence on Monday 2nd November. Weekend Masses will continue as normal during this time. Thank you.

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.

Annual Shoe Box Appeal 2020 - www.teams4u.com: 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 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.

Thank You: A big Thank you to all our lovely friends for the beautiful cards, Mass prayers and good wishes since my lovely John's death. Kath Whiting & Family



Mass Times and Intentions

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A		
Saturday 24 th October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed on our YouTube channel</i>	Laurence McCreanor RIP (S. Wood)
Sunday 25 th October	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
Monday 26 th October <i>St Cedd</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 27 th October	No Mass	
Wednesday 28 th October <i>St Simon & Jude</i>	No Mass	
Thursday 29 th October	No Mass	
Friday 30 th October	No Mass	
ALL SAINTS - Year A		
Saturday 31 st October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Live-streamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 1 st November <i>All Saints Solemnity</i> <i>1st Reading: Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14</i> <i>Psalms: 23:1-6</i> <i>2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Live-streamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Live-streamed</i> Mass (EF) (Latin): 12:00 p.m.	

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



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