

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29th November 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

'Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.'

1st Reading:	<i>Isa 63:16-17; 64:3-8</i>
Psalm 79:	<i>God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>The Lord bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin a new liturgical year, and so we take a new set of readings – Year B on Sundays and Year 1 on weekdays. The Gospel readings for Sundays will be from St. Mark. Advent is the season in the liturgical calendar, which is composed of 4 Sundays as preparation for Christmas. The liturgical colour is violet since Advent Season has a penitential character but has also the element of hope and joy in the expectation of the Lord's joyful coming at Christmas. Any major event in the life of a person needs ample preparation. Advent is a preparation for the "appointed time" when God-made-man was born into the world. A meaningful Advent season is necessary for a fruitful celebration of Christmas.

"Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus" (arrival), taken from "advenire"- "ad" (to) + "venire" (come). It means "coming". The one who is coming is no ordinary person, but the Son of God made man, Jesus Christ. There are three (3) comings of Jesus. The first coming took place on the first Christmas night in Bethlehem. Jesus came as a small and helpless infant. This is what we recall each Christmas. He lived among us as true God and true man. He offered His life on the cross. And after 33 years in this world, He went back to His Father in heaven. This is Jesus' coming in history.

Today's Gospel - The Gospel this Sunday is clearly an exhortation on vigilance or watchfulness. Jesus will come again as the Eternal Judge. It is a certain event in our life and in the life of the world. But nobody knows about the exact time and day. Hence, there is the need for constant vigilance. In bringing home this message, Jesus used the image of a man travelling overseas leaving behind his servants to take care of the house. This image reveals to us several important truths.

First, the man travelling abroad is the image of Jesus. He lived with us as man in this world for 33 years. Then he went back to his Father in heaven. Temporarily he is not physically present for he ascended into heaven. But he will come back soon and at any time.



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Second, the servants left behind to take care of the house are the followers of Jesus. He gave each one of us our obligations and duties to fulfil in his house, the Church. And we are expected to do our job well and faithfully. We should never be complacent and irresponsible in the fulfilment of our roles of service to one another, for at any time, without any warning, the Lord may come. It would be such a great misfortune if he finds us not doing our chores: “May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.”

Third, the relationship between the master and the servants is based on trust. This is basically our relationship with Jesus. He trusts us, despite our sins and unworthiness. He entrusted to us his many gifts and talents, and he gave us full responsibility over this world we live in. He hopes that we become his trustworthy servants. The time of reckoning will surely come, and we will render an account of our stewardship to him. That is why our preparation for the second coming of the Lord depends totally on how we fulfil our duties as his faithful and trustworthy servants on a daily basis. The second coming of Jesus is not a remote event in the future. Rather, it is something for which we must be ready in the here and now and at any time: every moment in the present has an eternal significance.

It is true that we look forward to His Second Coming as a future event, but we have to remind ourselves always that He comes to us at every moment of our lives, in our moments of silence, in prayers and solitude, in the signs of the times, in the unfolding events around us, and most especially in the sacraments, particularly in the Eucharist. Let us never forget that our preparation for the Second Coming consists in and depends on our meaningful encounter with Him every day in our life. This is the general theme of the Gospel this Sunday. Jesus comes to us in the sacraments. What is our disposition when we come to Mass? How do we regard the celebration of the other sacraments?

Jesus comes to us in our silence and prayers. Do we find quality time to pray and be with him every day? Or do we rush our prayers, looking at them more as a duty to fulfil than as an opportunity of a fresh and personal encounter with Jesus?

Jesus comes to us in the persons who are needy. Do we see Jesus in the poor, the prisoners, the sick, jobless and the abandoned? How sincere is our compassion and care for them?

Jesus comes to us in the events and the signs of the times. Can we honestly say that we can feel the presence of Jesus in the day-to-day events of our life?

With these considerations, the question as to when the second coming of Jesus will happen becomes moot and academic. The time for preparation and vigilance is now. The Lord may come today, tonight or tomorrow or by the next century. But for us, it does not matter when he will come again if we are prepared all the time. Our whole life should be a life spent for Jesus and his kingdom. This, then, will enable us to welcome the coming of Jesus with joyful expectation, hope and eagerness. Such is the spirit and overall theme of Advent: “Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!”

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

Lockdown: As you will have seen and heard we will be coming out of lockdown and collective worship will commence at St Theresa's from Wednesday 2nd December. Until that date restrictions will apply and we shall continue to livestream Masses via our YouTube channel:

<https://www.sttheresastansted.org/youtube-livestream/>.



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The Mass and Private Prayer times are as follows:

Day	Livestreamed Mass Time	Private Prayer	Livestreamed Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction
Monday	10 a.m.		
Tuesday	10 a.m.	1p.m. - 2 p.m.	

Please note that the church is open for Private Prayer only. Confession will be available during Private Prayer, and on request.

Things may be subject to change so please do continue to check the website, Facebook page and Newsletter for updates and information.

From **Wednesday 2nd December** Mass times will return to normal and will be as follows:

Day	Mass Time	Confessions	Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction
Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	7 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	7 p.m.
Saturday	6.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	
Sunday	8:30 a.m. 10:00am	9:15 a.m.	
Monday	9.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	
Tuesday	8:00 p.m. <i>Latin Mass</i> <i>(Extraordinary Form)</i>	7.15 p.m.	

Peter Bennett R.I.P: Please remember Peter Bennett, who has sadly died, in your prayers. Please pray for all the family during this difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Peter will be received into church on Monday 7th December at 17:00, followed by a Requiem Mass on Tuesday 8th December at 11:00. The rule of 30 applies to both services.

Church Cleaning – Can you help? Firstly, a big thank you to those members of the Parish that have assisted over the last few months and continued to do so during lockdown. Without your support we could not have offered Private Prayer. As we emerge from our second lockdown, we need more volunteers to help with the cleaning of church.

We are looking for volunteers to clean the church after the Masses. The cleaning of the church is a legal requirement for us to be able to open for Mass and due to a change of circumstance with our current cleaning volunteers we need more to allow us to open.

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. 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 clean or 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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 28 th November <i>Saturday memorial of the BVM</i>	Mass: 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Church open for Private Prayer: 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.	Mick & Jim Cassidy RIP (E. Cassidy-Jones)
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B		
Sunday 29 th November	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Church open for Private Prayer: 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.	Deceased Catenians RIP (J. Richardson)
Monday 30 th November <i>St. Andrew</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Fr John Garrett RIP (Rev. D Connors)
Tuesday 1 st December <i>B. John Beche</i>	Latin Mass (EF): 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Church open for Private Prayer: 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 2 nd December	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 3 rd December <i>S.t Francis Xavier</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 4 th December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B		
Saturday 5 th December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Peter Bennett RIP (Bennett & Dalzell Families)
Sunday 6 th December <i>1st Reading: Isa 40:1-5; 9-11</i> <i>Psalm: 84:9-14</i> <i>2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14</i> <i>Gospel: Mark 1:1-8</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.	People of the Parish Mary Liz Simon RIP (C.Taylor)



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