

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13th December 2020

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • www.sttheresasstansted.org

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 814349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 816889

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

'There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.'

1st Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*

Psalm Luke 1:46-50, *My soul rejoices in my God.*

53-54:

2nd Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday” because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: “Gaudete in Domino semper” – “Rejoice in the Lord always.” To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and Father Lee and myself will wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day’s Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

The Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector. In today’s Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1:46 ff.) Mary rejoices in the great blessing given to her, exclaiming: “My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my Saviour.”

St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to “rejoice always” by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ’s second coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them.

Today’s Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptist wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world. We rejoice at the humility of John the Baptist, who tells the Sanhedrin members challenging him that he is unworthy even to become the slave of Jesus the Messiah.



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We also rejoice in the sincerity and commitment of John who spent himself completely in preparing people for the long-awaited Messiah. We have an additional reason to rejoice because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world.

We need to bear witness to Christ the Light. Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ's Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ's sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalised. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ's Light only by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible daily in meditative, prayerful fashion, and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy where we see these are needed.

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

Christmas Masses: Christmas Masses are still available to book via our Website or by phone via the Parish Office during opening times. Bookings will be made on a first come - first served basis as numbers will be limited to maintain social distancing. Clair will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. You will be contacted and given your seat allocation number nearer the time. Bookings for these Masses will stay open until 23rd December. The Mass times are as follows:

Christmas Eve: **BOTH MASSES ARE NOW FULL**
Christmas Day: 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Unfortunately, the current restrictions prevent us from having carols this year and holding any activities for the children.

Christmas Music: A number of people have asked about having piped Christmas music over a speaker before the Christmas Masses. Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we are unable to have music that could encourage people to sing.

Christmas Mass Steward Volunteers: We are looking for stewards to volunteer for the two Christmas Eve Masses at 16:00 and 19:00. If you can help, please let us know ASAP. Email Clair in the Parish Office or make Fr. Lee or Deacon Des aware that you can help. Thank you.

Cleaners: We are still looking for volunteers to assist with the cleaning of the church. If we are unable to get volunteers this will result in having to cancel some of our Masses, so please help if you can. Thank you.



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Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2021: Copies of next year's directories are now available to purchase. This edition contains an obituary of Fr. John. Should you wish to purchase one please contact Clair. Ringbound copies are £4.00 and Paperback copies are £2.80. Thank you.

Christmas Octave: The Bishops Conference of England and Wales have suggested that the Masses during the Christmas Octave (Saturday 26th December 2020 until Friday 1st January 2021) be considered additional Masses to celebrate Christmas liturgically as churches will not be able to cater for everyone on Christmas Eve/Day Masses. Therefore, Masses during the week of 28th December will be held at 11:00 a.m. Weekend Mass times remain unchanged. Thank you.

Mass Intentions: We have spaces available for Intentions the week commencing the 28th December. Should you wish to make a request please contact Clair in the Parish Office or make the request via our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/mass-times-2/mass-intentions/>

Advent Calendar: We have placed an Advent Calendar for the children and can be accessed via our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/mass-times-2/childrens-liturgy/>

Safeguarding: We have this week updated the latest edition of the Essex Police Fraud Alert System Newsletter onto our website for your reference. Please take time to review and be made aware of current scams taking place in our area. The information can be located via: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/safeguarding/>

Sunday Coffee morning: 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? This weekend's quiz will be hosted by Deacon Des. Held every Sunday at 11.15 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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Mass Times and Intentions

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B		
Saturday 12 th December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bill Blythe RIP (H. Bennett)
Sunday 13 th December	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 K. Whiting & Family (E. Cassidy-Jones)
Monday 14 th December <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Ronnie Jackson RIP Anne & Antonio Cattano RIP (The Jackson Family)
Tuesday 15 th December	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m.	For the Intentions of Zenon Handzel
Wednesday 16 th 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>	For the Intentions of Antonia & James
Thursday 17 th December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	James Desmond Connors & Eileen Connors RIP (Rev D Connors)
Friday 18 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>	Chrissy & Rose Clarke RIP & Deceased members of the Clarke Family (K Clarke)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B		
Saturday 19 th December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	James McCreanor RIP (S Wood)
Sunday 20 th December <i>1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16</i> <i>Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29 response v2</i> <i>2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27</i> <i>Gospel: Luke 1:26-38</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 Peter Bennett RIP (Dalzell & Bennett Families)



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