

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) • [www.sttheresasstansted.org](http://www.sttheresasstansted.org)

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr. Lee Bennett [frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 814349

**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Des Connors [desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Clair Rava [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 816889

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## Gospel: Luke 1:26 - 38

*'Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son.'*

**1st Reading:**

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14- 16*

**Psalm: 88:2-5, 27, 29**

*I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.*

**2nd Reading:**

*Romans 16:25-27*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:**

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel is from Luke and captures the moment our Lady said: "Be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood and we call this event the 'Annunciation.' Mary, a lowly handmaiden, said yes to God. This is important to remember, that this was not a decision imposed upon her, but made freely.

We recall this momentous event when we say the Angelus. We recall that it was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity. I think that perhaps we can sometimes forget this, that we can unknowingly dismiss the importance of this event. Mary, our eternal mother, said yes to bearing the Child who would be the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

What courage she showed. To have found herself pregnant whilst betrothed to a man she had not had relations with, and then for that man, Joseph, to stand by her and protect her when custom dictated that she be disowned and cast out.

This is a wonderful preparation for Christmas because I think that Luke wants to tell us today how Mary says, in those very famous words, not "I am happy to do this. It's wonderful you picked me," she says, "be it done according to thy word." At this very moment, Mary takes on flesh. And the child that is born of her has the flesh of Mary, the eyes of Mary, the ears of Mary, the loveliness of Mary, the humanity of Mary. Today is a reminder to us to keep faith. It was Mary's faith that made the incarnation possible, and it is Mary that is the model of faith we are called to follow.



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

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "Behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

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**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** – Please note that there will be no Masses on either of these days.

**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 Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. You will be contacted and given your seat allocation number nearer the time. Bookings for these Masses will stay open until 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 Octave:** The Bishops Conference of England and Wales have suggested that the Masses during the Christmas Octave (Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020 until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> December will be held at 11:00 a.m. Weekend Mass times remain unchanged. Thank you.

**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.



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## Mass Times from 24<sup>th</sup> December until the end of Christmas Octave:

Date	Mass Times
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve	09:30
Booking required	16:00
Booking required	19:00
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day	
Booking required	08:30
Booking required	10:00
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December – St. Stephen	11:00
	18:00
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Family	08:30
	10:00
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents	11:00
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December – Latin Mass (EF) St. Thomas of Canterbury	11:00
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	11:00
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021 – Mary, Mother of God	11:00

**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.

**Mass Intentions:** We have spaces available for Intentions the week commencing the 28<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**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? 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.

**Parish Office Christmas Closure:** The Parish office will be closed from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December and re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Lost and Found:** Found in our car park, a very bedraggled and miserable looking ginger and white furry kitten. (Stuffed!). He is looking much happier now, having had a nice warm bath and a lot of stroking, but he says it would be a lovely Christmas present for him if he were to be re-united with the little person who dropped him. If you should recognise the description, please leave a message on 'Stansted Really Matters' and we would be so happy to re-unite you both. Eileen Quinn.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B</b>		
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>James McCreanor R.I.P.</b> (S Wood)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> 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>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Peter Bennett R.I.P.</b> (Dalzell & Bennett Families)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>  Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>John Green R.I.P.</b> (E&B Quinn)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>		
<i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i>	Mass: 4:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> <i>Booking required</i>	<b>Deceased members of McCreanor, Donnell &amp; Wood Families</b> (S Wood)
<i>Christmas Mass During the Night</i>	Mass: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> <i>Booking Required</i>	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Mass of the Dawn</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> <i>Booking required</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<i>Mass of the Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> <i>Booking required</i>	<b>Bridget Mary &amp; Joseph Grace R.I.P.</b> (R Spencer)
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St. Stephen</i>	Mass: 11:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - Year B</b>		
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Vigil Mass</i>	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Tommaso Mastradrea R.I.P.</b> (The Lambe Family)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> 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>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Margaret Aldridge R.I.P.</b> (T Aldridge)



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