

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux*

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

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**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

*'The child grew, filled with wisdom'*

**1st Reading:**

*Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*

**Psalm: 104:1-6,8-9**

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

**2nd Reading:**

*Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon:**

*Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is a model for all families. Being a Holy Family does not mean that everything was smooth for them. It was a family with many ups and downs.

Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's pregnancy was a troubling situation for both Mary and Joseph. They, however, accepted the situation when each of them was ministered to by the angel of the Lord. Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son" (Matthew 12:4-25).

Mary gave birth to Jesus in a very difficult circumstance. After a long journey on foot from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a distance of about 100 miles, there was no inn to lodge in. They went to a shed in a farm where Mary gave birth to Jesus. There was no nurse or midwife; only Mary and Joseph. We can only imagine how tough it was for the two of them.

In all their ups and downs, Mary and Joseph remained together. As the Gospel says, Jesus grew under them and became strong, filled with wisdom; and God's favour rested upon him.

As we read in the Gospel of today, at the presentation of Jesus in the temple, Mary was told that a sword would pierce her heart. No mother would be glad to hear such a prediction concerning her baby. Her first experience of the sword piercing her heart was when the Holy Family fled to Egypt to save Jesus from Herod's wrath. It was another traumatic experience when Jesus got separated from them after the feast of Passover in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple after searching for him for three days.



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

The family was the first institution created by God. Jesus tells us that marriage, which is the foundation of every family, is sacred and a mystery. He says, "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and join to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Mark 10:6-9).

We are aware that the family as an institution is under attack. Despite the attack, the Catholic Church's teachings have not changed. The Church has not changed the definition of marriage as a covenant, and not a contract. The Church maintains that marriage is a union between a man and his wife. The Church has not changed her teaching that life begins at conception. The Catholic Church has not changed her teaching that parents have the right to bring their children up in the ways of the Lord. The Catholic Church has not changed her teaching that children are obliged to provide for aged parents.

What can we learn from the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in order to keep our families from falling apart, and also keep our families as sacred as God made them to be from creation? Pope Paul VI described the Holy Family as a school of Nazareth where we learn true science of life and the higher wisdom of divine truth.

The first readings tell us about Abram's faith in God, while in the Gospel we see the faith of Simeon and Anna. Mary and Joseph were persons of great faith as already mentioned above. We are, therefore, encouraged to put faith in God all our considerations and actions. Faith in God is the master key to a happy home.

When a family puts their faith in God, the Spirit of God easily ministers to the members to support one another, encourage one another and be present for one another. Love for one another increases with time when members of a family put their faith in God. When they lose faith in God, love for one another decreases with time.

Faith in God makes us, humbly, listen to God through listening to one another. Faith in God makes us realise that life is better as 'us' not as 'me.' Faith in God encourages us to value self-denial and self-sacrifice for the good of those in need.

Faith in God enables us to be obedient to God and to one another. Members of a family experience peace when they respect and obey each other. Disobedience is one of the vices that disintegrate families. One of the signs of faith in God is prayerfulness. A family that prays together, stays together. There is power in prayer. A prayerful Christian is a faithful Christian and a powerful Christian.

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 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.



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**Mass Times from 26<sup>th</sup> December until the end of Christmas Octave:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Times</b>
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St. Stephen</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - Year B</b>	
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Vigil Mass</i>	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>The Holy Family</i>	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b>  Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St. Thomas of Canterbury</i>	Latin Mass (EF): <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b> <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>

**Thank you:** Both Deacon Des and I and our families would like to say thank for all of the cards, gifts, love and generosity shown this Christmas. From our families to yours we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Fr. Lee.



**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.

**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 will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Newsletter:** Please note there will be no Newsletter on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St Stephen</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – Year B</b>		
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Tommaso Mastrandrea R.I.P.</b> (The Lambe Family)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Margaret Aldridge R.I.P.</b> (T. Aldridge)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St. Thomas of Canterbury</i>	Latin Mass (EF): <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Giuseppe Rava R.I.P.</b> (The Rava Family)
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	Mass: <b>11:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – Year B</b>		
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 1st Reading: Ecclesiastics 24:1-2, 8-12 Psalm: 147:12-15, 19-20 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18 Gospel: John 1:1-18  <i>MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS</i>	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass (EF) (Latin): <b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Marie Keane RIP</b> (C Gallagher)



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