

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 24th January 2021

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

'Repent, and believe the Good News.'

1st Reading: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

Psalm 24: 4-9: *Lord, make me know your ways.*

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 7:29 - 31*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe the Good News. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

God's call to discipleship, with the response of repentance, conversion, and renewal of life expected from each of us, is the main theme of today's readings. No matter to what life, work, or ministry God calls us, He first calls us to conversion, to reform, to repentance – to the process of continually becoming new people. Those who are constantly being reformed by the Spirit will be able to follow, as true disciples, wherever God leads. All three readings today underline the absolute necessity of such repentance and ready response to God's call.

The first reading tells us about the prophet Jonah, whose response when God first called him and told him to go to Nineveh was to take ship immediately for the furthest point he could get to in the opposite direction! Why? We don't know. Perhaps he was scared. Or perhaps it was because he hated the Gentile people of Nineveh and thought that they were not worthy of God's gracious mercy. In any case, Jonah ran away. God had to halt Jonah in his flight, then give him a three-day "time-out" in the belly of that great fish, before the prophet was ready to accept the Lord God's "second chance" to obey Him and go to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. Far from being hostile, however, the people and the King of Nineveh, promptly responded to God's word as preached by His prophet, repenting in sackcloth with a fast — just on the outside chance that the Lord God "might" spare them!

In the second reading, Paul urges the community in Corinth, and us, to lose no time accepting the message of the Gospel because Jesus' second coming may occur at any time. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus entered Galilee and began preaching. Like John, Jesus also called for repentance. But Jesus added the Good News that the Kingdom of God was at hand. It still is, for where Jesus is, there is the Kingdom of God. Then Jesus called on his listeners to believe in the Gospel or the Good News of God's love, mercy and salvation. When Jesus invited Simon, Andrew, James, and John to join him and help in his preaching and



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healing ministry, they promptly accepted his call, for discipleship is the only complete response a believer can make to that proclamation and invitation. The two greatest aspects of discipleship in Mark are being with Jesus and sharing in his mission. Disciples are invited to be with Jesus on a great spiritual journey and to share in Jesus' mission of proclaiming God's Kingdom in word and deed. In describing the call of Jesus' first disciples, today's Gospel also emphasises how we, sinners, are to respond to Him with total commitment, abandoning our accustomed attitudes and styles of life to follow Him in thought, word, and deed.

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.

Ordinary Time

We have now entered the season of the Church's Year that we call Ordinary Time. Because the term 'ordinary' in English most often means something that's not really special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are relatively unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the Liturgical Year in the Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word 'ordinalis', which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Therefore, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, which we celebrated last weekend, always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. For Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. I hope that we can agree that there's nothing "ordinary" about that!

The Church year begins with Advent, followed immediately by the Christmas season. Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the first Sunday after January 6, the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany and the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. This first period of Ordinary Time runs until Ash Wednesday when the liturgical season of Lent begins. Both Lent and the Easter season fall outside of Ordinary Time, which resumes again on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, the end of the Easter season. This second period of Ordinary Time runs until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical year begins again.

In most years, the Sunday after January 6 is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As feasts of our Lord, both the Baptism of the Lord and Epiphany displace a Sunday in Ordinary Time, therefore the first Sunday in the period of Ordinary Time is the Sunday that falls after the first week of Ordinary Time, which makes it the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, (are you keeping up with this?)

Ordinary Time is a feature of the current liturgical calendar. In the traditional Catholic calendar used before 1970 and still used in the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, as well as in the calendars of the Eastern



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Catholic Churches, the Sundays of Ordinary Time are referred to as the Sundays After Epiphany and the Sundays After Pentecost. This is why when we celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the Mass here at St. Theresa's there is often a different Saints day or Sunday title celebrated to the one in our regular diocesan calendar.

In any given year, there are either 33 or 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time. Because Easter is a moveable feast, and thus the Lent and Easter seasons "float" from year to year, the number of Sundays in each period of Ordinary Time vary from the other period as well as from year to year.

I hope this explanation helps.

Fr. Lee



Parish News

Alan Coyle RIP: Alan's body will be received into Church on Monday 25th January 2021 at 4:30 p.m. His Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a burial at New Hall School, Chelmsford at 12 noon. The rule of 30 applies to all three services.

Safeguarding: Please take some time to view our Safeguarding page on the website. We update the page regularly with the Essex Police Fraud Alert publication, making you aware of current fraudulent activity. Sadly, during the pandemic, fraudsters continue to make use of the situation and target the vulnerable.

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 11.10 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 IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B		
Saturday 23 rd January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Alan Coyle RIP (C&A Rava)
Sunday 24 th January	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
Monday 25 th January <i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 26 th January <i>St. Polycarp</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m.	
Wednesday 27 th January	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 Intention of Parish Stewards with thanks. (K. McDowall)
Thursday 28 th January <i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 29 th January	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>	For the Intention of Br. Gildas Parry, O.Praem. (Fr. L. Bennett)
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B		
Saturday 30 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Johnpaul Loughlin RIP (The Loughlin Family)
Sunday 31 st January	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



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



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