

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 14<sup>th</sup> February 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 1:40-45

*'The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured.'*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46</i>
<b>Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 11:</b>	<i>You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The book of Leviticus makes it very clear that those suffering from leprosy were to be outcast, they were to cover their mouths and warn others by shouting, 'unclean, unclean.' If a person contracted leprosy, they would have to leave everything, family, friends, livelihood and way of life, no exceptions and no reprieve. In today's Gospel, the leper who approached Jesus was breaking every rule possible. Not only was he not supposed to approach Jesus, but even more to the point, he certainly should not have spoken to Him. The leper shows incredible faith in both approaching Jesus and then asking Him to cure him, 'If you want to, you can make me clean.' Jesus responds, 'of course I want to', and reaches out and heals him. In this act of compassion, according to the Jewish laws laid out in Leviticus, the person who touches an unclean person immediately then becomes unclean themselves.

Jesus came for the outcasts. He came for the marginalised and the forgotten, the sinful and the desperate. Pope Francis says that the Church should be a field hospital, with its pastors and people having the smell of the sheepfold. This means that we do not build up walls that separate us from others. We do not think we are superior to the outcasts in society, rather than passing judgement we are called to display compassion, mercy and welcome to those on the peripheries.

Today, millions of people around the world face seclusion and ostracization. Jesus asks us to seek them out, and regardless of their race or religion; how different their views or beliefs may be, to reach out and touch them and make them aware of the healing power of Jesus. When we die, and we stand face to face with God, we will be judged according to the way we treated others, how much we have loved, not by how well we can recite texts or prayers but by how we brought others closer to recognising the mercy of Jesus Christ. We pray Lord that when we see those who ask us to 'heal' them we respond as you did by saying, 'of course I want to.'

Deacon Des



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## **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.**

### **Lent 2021**

The word Lent comes from a Middle English word 'Lencten' which means springtime. With springtime comes a great sense of confidence, a looking forward and a fresh start. The Lord knows we all need that following on from this past year. Lent can be this fresh start for us. By walking faithfully with Our Lord in this great season of grace we shall be better able to enter more fully with him into the joy and victory of Easter.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. There will be two Masses that day –at 12:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

During these Masses we have the opportunity of having ashes placed on our heads to remind us of the call to penitence and also to remind us of our frailty. This year due to COVID restrictions we have been asked to follow the ancient practice of having a sprinkling of ashes placed on our heads, rather than the ash cross imposed on our foreheads. This practice has remained the standard practice on Ash Wednesday in Rome and in some other European countries.

### **Confession**

If it has been a long time since your last Confession and you want a gentle reminder of what you say do please ask for help – that's one reason why you have clergy here to serve you. Lent is the perfect time to come back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have Confession here at St. Theresa's every day, the times are advertised in this newsletter on the back page where the Masses are listed, why not come along?

### **Fasting**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fast and Abstinence. This means that those who are over 16 and under 60, and who are fit and well (not those with health issues that preclude fasting) are asked to deny themselves some food and not to eat meat. The Church states that this includes one full meal and two small meals that together do not constitute one full meal. These meals should not include meat. Fasting is a good way to draw closer to God, to hunger and thirst for Him. Fridays are a day of abstinence, that means we are asked to undertake the discipline of not eating meat, (we can still eat fish).

### **Mass**

Lent is a very special opportunity for each one of us to be renewed in Spirit, in our life of prayer and worship so as to be renewed in our service of God and neighbour. One excellent way of keeping a good and holy Lent is to set yourself the goal of coming to one extra Mass during the week. Here at St. Theresa's, we have the enormous blessing and privilege of a Mass on every day of the week. The blessings that flow from the Mass are beyond measure, both for the individual and for the Parish. I hope that we will use this Lent to think together about the opportunities we have of renewing our commitment to the life of prayer and worship here in this place. Please consider carefully and prayerfully your own pattern of worship and set yourself to come to an extra midweek Mass.



## Stations of the Cross

This is an ancient and beautiful devotion, loved by generations of Christians. Each Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. and Friday at 7:00 p.m. in Lent beginning on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, we follow Our Lord in the Way of the Cross and are reminded of the immense love He showed for us. Deacon Des will lead us on Friday evenings on the Way of the Cross followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Lee will lead us in a short Stations of the Cross before the Wednesday Mass. Do please try to come to Stations if you possibly can.

Finally, it is very important not to take on too much at the start of Lent. It is much better to take on a sensible amount and have the joy of being able to sustain it throughout the Lenten Season.

## Parish News

**50 Years of Affiliation to the Archconfraternity in Westminster:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the Guild of St. Stephen at St. Theresa's will celebrate 50 Years of Affiliation to the Archconfraternity in Westminster, and a Commemorative Card was produced to celebrate the event. Please pray for all past and current Servers of St. Theresa's. Thank You. T. Aldridge.

**Livestreaming Fundraising Request:** From the start of the very first lockdown, we have livestreamed Masses and continue to do so. Frustratingly, the equipment in the church has proved to be not fit for purpose letting us down on many occasions. We are keen to ensure that parishioners have good access to our Masses and Liturgies and so we are pleased to confirm we will be installing a permanent camera with supporting equipment to allow us to continue the livestream of our Masses/Services. This should enable a better-quality broadcast and hopefully eliminate the technical issues we have experienced. However, we need your help to fund this purchase, and have set a fundraising target of £4,500. Should you wish to donate you can do so via the following methods:

- Online Transfer - Via our website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=stansted> under the section Parish Fund please select 'Other' and type 'Livestream Fundraiser'.
- Cheque - Should you wish to pay by cheque please place it into an envelope marked 'Livestream Fundraiser' and drop it into the Offertory basket when leaving Mass, or post through the Presbytery door.

Thank you for your support in enabling us to keep the Parish community together during these difficult times.

**CAFOD Walk For Water:** Could you 'Walk for Water' as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, for 40 days? Find out more at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>.

**"Visions" Zoom Group:** Held at 3:00 p.m. every Tuesday with the purpose of sharing scripture, promoting positive mental health, prayer - joy and laughter, as well as pictures and art. No commitment is asked, you can speak or just join and listen.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226878791>
- Meeting ID: 822 2687 8791
- Passcode: visionst

**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.

**Parish Office Closure:** The Parish office will be closed from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and reopen on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.



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

## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B</b>		
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Fr. John Garrett RIP</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary</b> (Revd. D. Connors)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February <i>World Day for the Unemployed</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>	<b>Les Bennett RIP</b> (T. Aldridge)  <b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12.30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>7:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>50 Years of Affiliation to</b> <b>the Archconfraternity in</b> <b>Westminster</b> (T. Aldridge)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B</b>		
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	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>Les Bennett RIP</b> (T. Aldridge)  <b>Jess Gunther RIP</b> (B. Horton)

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



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