

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 21ST 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 1:12-15

'Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.'

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 24:4-6,7b-9: *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation: *Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

Communion Antiphon: *One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Lent is a time of repentance and renewal. Lent also commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his public ministry. Forty days of fasting and prayer, culminating in the temptation of Christ which is recalled in today's Gospel.

This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.

Compared with the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfilment of God's promises is here. The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by



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an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives.

We need to contemplate this incredible event. Satan is permitted to enter the life of Jesus and subject him to a series of temptations. Jesus allowed this to happen to demonstrate to us that he has undergone the same temptations that we will have to undergo during the course of our lives, and to teach us that we can overcome those temptations just as he Himself did.

During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

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

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.

"Visions" Zoom Group: Held every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. every week via Zoom 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. The Zoom details are as follows:

- <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.



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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/>.



COVID Restrictions Reminder

Face Coverings: Face coverings are mandatory in Places of Worship. All those who are attending St. Theresa's Church at any time must wear a face covering unless they are exempt from doing so or under the age of 11.

Holy Communion: Please note that following the guidelines issued by the Bishops of England and Wales, **communion on the tongue is presently not permitted and can only be received in the hand.** Parishioners are asked to wait in their pews until instructed to move forward for Holy Communion by the Stewards, always being aware of the regulations on social distancing in the orderly queue. When you approach Fr. Lee/Deacon Des, please do so with arms at "full stretch" to maintain good distance, one on top of the other forming a 'throne'. **Once received, cover the host with the free hand to ensure it is not dropped, and then move to the right, away from the Fr. Lee/Deacon Des. Pause and unloop your face mask, consume the blessed sacrament and then re-apply your mask and leave the church. Under no circumstances should the host be consumed after leaving the church.**

Maintaining Social Distancing before, during and after Mass: Please make note of the guidance issued by the Bishops of England and Wales. Worshippers should limit their interactions with anyone they are not attending church with, i.e., if they are attending corporate worship with one other household, wherever possible they should maintain social distancing with anyone outside of this group.

Please do not congregate outside the church, this also includes the grounds and the car park.

Benches have been placed to allow a 2 meters distance when parishioners sit within the arrows marked on them. Please take care to check your surroundings when seated to ensure you are in the correct place.

Funerals: Current Government restrictions allow no more than 30 people at Funerals, including burials. Attendees should socially distance from anyone with whom they do not live (unless within the same support bubble).

Weddings: Current Government restrictions allows Weddings to take place in exceptional circumstance with the number limited to 6 people.



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Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B		
Saturday 20 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 21 st February	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>	Les Bennett RIP (T. Aldridge) Jess Gunther RIP (B. Horton)
Monday 22 nd February <i>The Chair of St. Peter</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Henry Aldridge RIP (T. Aldridge)
Tuesday 23 rd February	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 24 th February	Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 1:00 p.m.	
Thursday 25 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 26 th February <i>Lenten Fast Day</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B		
Saturday 27 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 th February	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>	Comboni Missionaries (Fr. L. Bennett)

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



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