

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

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## Gospel: John 3:14-21

*'God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved'.*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23</i>
<b>Psalm 136:1-6:</b>	<i>O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>Ephesians 2:4-10</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. This occurs in the middle of Lent, and just as Gaudete Sunday is celebrated midway through Advent, it reminds us of the coming joyful event we look forward to at the end of Lent, the Resurrection of our Lord. Just as on Gaudete Sunday, the clergy may wear rose-coloured vestments in place of violet, and flowers are permitted to be placed on the altar.

In the Gospel today, Jesus has a discussion with Nicodemus, a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin but also a secret follower of Jesus. Jesus tells Nicodemus that to enter the Kingdom of God one must undergo rebirth by water and the Spirit, and that he must believe this because it is the Son of God who tells him this. Jesus also explains that God will show His love for the world by allowing His own Son to undergo great suffering and death.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."* This is the summary of the Gospel message of salvation through Christ Jesus. This text is the very essence of the Gospel. It tells us that God takes the initiative in all salvation because of His love for man.

Jesus makes reference to the Old Testament and the story of the Israelites journeying through the wilderness. The people of Israel complained about having ever left Egypt and to punish them for their lack of faith, God sent a plague of serpents. When the people repented, God told Moses to make an image of a serpent impaled on a pole and to hold it aloft in the midst of the camp, so that anyone who looked upon the serpent would be healed.

Jesus explains to Nicodemus, that like Moses' bronze serpent, Jesus too will be 'lifted up', a reference to His crucifixion, and that the act of being 'lifted up' will bring about salvation. Jesus is the light of the world,



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and this is made clear when we are told, *“Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”* This conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus makes it clear that we have a choice to walk in the light or to remain in the darkness. If we follow the teachings of Christ we remain in the light, if we choose to ignore and oppose these teachings, we make the decision to remain in the darkness.

In our world and in our own lives, we can often see many dark places. We can become bogged down in this mire and feel that there is no way out of this darkness. Jesus shows us the way.

The light offers us forgiveness and salvation. It also allows us to share this light with others and to help them be released from their own darkness. We should not become discouraged when we slip into the darkness, we should remember that by virtue of our baptism, we have been re-born in water and spirit. We need to remember that we are loved, and that God gave his only Son because of His love for us. A good spiritual exercise this Lent is to gaze upon a crucifix and to contemplate the enormity of the sacrifice God made for us. The crucifix is the reminder, should we need any, of the great mercy that God offers to each of us.

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**

**The Easter Triduum:** We are thinking ahead to Holy Week and in particular the Easter Triduum. The times of services and Masses will be as follows:

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Maundy Thursday:**

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.

**Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 8:00p.m. \***

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Good Friday:**

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross for Families & Children at 10:00 a.m.

**The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3:00 p.m. \***

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Holy Saturday:**

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.

**The Easter Vigil at 8:00p.m. \***

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day:**

**Mass at 8:30 a.m. \***

**Mass at 10:00 a.m. \***

**Mass at 12:00 p.m. Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form \***

**Booking required \***

Please note that apart from the Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, and Stations of the Cross, should you wish to attend any of the above celebrations they will need to be booked. This is to enable us to maintain the numbers of people at each Mass/Service so that we comply with COVID-19 safety restrictions.

Bookings can be made from **10:00 a.m. this Tuesday (16<sup>th</sup> March)** via our Website or by phone call to the Parish Office during opening times. Clair can be contacted on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Bookings will be made on a first come - first served basis. You will be



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contacted and given your seat allocation number nearer the time. Bookings for these Masses will stay open until **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**.

**Do please let people know about this booking process, especially as it is a “first come, first served” system.**

You will need to book for yourself and each member of your family. **Please note that we will be unable to reallocate your seat at the Masses and Services if you cancel during Holy Week itself, so please do only book if you intend to be at that Mass or Service.** You can book a place at each of the bookable Masses/Services, and again, places will be allocated on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

**Church Volunteer – Can you help?** Firstly a big thank you to those members of the Parish that have assisted to date and to those that continue to support us, without you we could not and cannot continue to open. As things slowly start to return to normal and people are returning to work, we need more volunteers. Can you help? The role involves ensuring social distancing takes place, limiting the number of people in Church at any one time (if required), directing parishioners towards the hand sanitisers and ensuring adherence to the one-way system.

Sadly, the current advice is that those who are either in an ‘at-risk’ category or who are above the age of 70 cannot be part of this volunteer workforce. That means that even those of you who feel very fit and well, or are a septuagenarian or older, cannot volunteer. We are sorry about that.

We do need to have a good list of volunteers to allow us to continue meeting the requirements issued by the Bishops of England and Wales and enabling us to continue worship at St. Theresa’s. Without volunteers for Masses this may mean that some will need to be cancelled.

If you would like to volunteer your services to steward, can you please contact Clair via the parish email: [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) with your name, contact details, and the times/days you could be available each week. Should you have any questions as to duties please feel free to contact Fr. Lee or Deacon Des.

**Livestreaming Fundraising:** A different sort of good news! Thank you all for your generous response to the Livestream appeal. We are delighted to tell you that with the aid of a £2000 contribution from the Bonus Ball competition the target figure of £4,500 has been reached.

Some of you may not be aware that the parish has a weekly fund-raising competition based around the number of the ball drawn as the bonus ball in the Lotto draw on Saturday evenings. Cost is £1 per week paid monthly, half yearly or annually, with a weekly prize of £30. Currently 8 numbers are available and if you would like to have one of these numbers please email the Parish Office via [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or call the office number above.

**“Visions” Zoom Group:** Held every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. 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.



## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Les Bennett R.I.P.</b> (Fr. L Bennett)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Mothering Sunday</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>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>St. Patrick</i>	Stations of the Cross: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Dana Kowalska R.I.P.</b> (B. Pattie)
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	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>	
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Raffaele Forte R.I.P.</b> (S. Bonito)
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	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>Giuseppe Rava R.I.P.</b> (The Rava Family)



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



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