

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ  
Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • [www.sttheresasstansted.org](http://www.sttheresasstansted.org)  
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr. Lee Bennett [frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 814349

**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Des Connors [desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Parish Administrator:** Clair Rava [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) ☎ 07734 273 969

---

## Gospel: John 12:20-33

*'If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest'.*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>
<b>Psalm 50: 3-4, 12-15:</b>	<i>A pure heart create for me, O God.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>Hebrews 5:7-9</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.</i>

---

## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In the first reading this week from the prophet Jeremiah, we learn of God's plan to replace the Old Covenant of judgement with a New Covenant that focuses on forgiveness of sins. This prophecy would be fulfilled through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Hebrews that Jesus established this new covenant by his suffering and death on the cross in obedience to his Father's will.

The Gospel provides a glimpse into the inner turmoil of Jesus in accepting his suffering, but Jesus makes it clear that for this new covenant to be fulfilled He must drink from that cup. Jesus explains that it was for this very reason that He came into the world and that through accepting the 'hour' and undergoing his passion, death, and Resurrection, he will be 'lifted up' and draw people to himself and thus their salvation.

We ourselves are reminded that we too must accept our own 'hour' if we are to truly follow Jesus. The things of this life are temporary, and we should concern ourselves with concentrating on doing God's will in preparation for the next world which is eternal and worth more than anything this earthly existence can offer us.

As Christians we need to accept the death of self through obedience, suffering and service to others. It is true that there are many people who have received honour, praise, and glory in this world for their service to others, but the praise received in this world is nothing compared to what awaits in Heaven. A shining example of this is St. Teresa of Calcutta. The selfless sacrifice she gave to working with the poor and dying in the crowded slums of Calcutta rightly earned her plaudits such as the Nobel Peace Prize and being described by the Secretary General of the United Nations as, "the most powerful woman in the world." This was wonderful recognition for her work with the marginalised, but the words our Lord would have greeted her with, "well done, good and faithful servant," meant so much more.

Let us pray for this same selfless, sacrificial spirit this Lent.

Deacon Des



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

## Veiling in Church during Passiontide

It may seem strange that during the most sacred time of year the Church covers everything that is beautiful in their Church buildings, even the crucifix from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (commonly referred to as Passiontide).

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Catholic Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday.

The rubrics can guide us. In the Roman Missal we find the instruction, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

This remains the current practice of the Church, in many places but not all, but veiling from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onward is miniscule compared to what was once practiced in some parts of the Catholic world. For example, in Germany there was a tradition to veil the altar from view throughout all of Lent!

But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

Firstly, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Thirdly, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further realised when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You do not want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home which is heaven. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted, and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

Fr. Lee

## 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. \***



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

**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. \* FULLY BOOKED**

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 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 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.

**COVID19 National Day of Reflection:** The President and Vice President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales have urged the faithful to make the National Day of Reflection on COVID-19 a day of prayer as well as a day of reflection. Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the anniversary of the first national lockdown, will be marked with a minute’s silence at midday. At 8pm, people are encouraged to create a ‘beacon of remembrance’ on their doorsteps by beaming phones, candles and torches into the night sky. Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be lit up across the UK. The Church will also be open for prayer between 10:00am and 12:15pm.

**“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.



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

## Mass Times and Intentions

<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 RIP</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 RIP</b> (The Rava Family)
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Betty Hall Anniversary</b> (K. Whiting)
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	COVID19 National Day of Reflection Church open for Prayer: <b>10:00a.m. until 12:15p.m.</b>  Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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 25<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Holy Souls</b> (J. & C. Welsh)
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 27<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>Sunday 28<sup>th</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>

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



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