

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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## Gospel: John 15:1-8

*'I am the vine, you are the branches'.*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Acts 9:26-31</i>
<b>Psalm 21:</b>	<i>You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>1 John 3:18-24</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel is part of what is known as Jesus' "farewell discourse" during the last supper as found in John 13-17. Jesus tells the disciples that he is the true vine, and that his heavenly Father is the vine-grower. His disciples are branches and those who do not abide in him are useless branches, which are only good for being cut away and thrown into the fire.

One can only be fruitful if joined to the new, true vine. Christ is the new true vine because the old vine, Israel, was succeeded by the new vine, the new covenant. Jesus told the disciples this to encourage them and give them strength for when he would have to leave them physically. To assist them in this, Jesus will send them the life-giving spirit, to be among them.

We are left in no doubt when we read this passage that those who abide in Christ are expected to bear fruit when Jesus tells the disciples that the Father removes every branch that bears no fruit and prunes the other branches, so that they may bear more fruit. There is a very old hymn that says, "they will know we are Christians by our love" and abiding in Christ means that God must be inside us, and we show this by the way we live our lives and the love we show to others.

It is not enough that we can come to Church every week or indeed every day but fail to give anything back in terms of love or service to those we encounter day to day. We risk becoming like those branches that bear no fruit.

We need to detach ourselves from worldly desires and the things we become so attached to, power, prestige, wealth, and pride. We need to attach ourselves to Jesus and to take joy in the knowledge that no amount of earthly reward can measure up against the joy that awaits those who have borne much fruit.

Our challenge is to put the words of the Gospel into our everyday interactions in a hidden way without expecting any thanks or acclaim.



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

The Church's Catholic Social Teaching puts the Gospel at the forefront of our efforts to bring solidarity to those in need, to put human dignity at the centre of our outreach with the aim of working for the common good. This is a true example of bearing fruit. We look upon the face of Christ when we see the faces of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed and those who suffer injustice. When we act to eradicate these social ills, we act with Jesus and Jesus acts with 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 CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

**Reflection - Day of the Lord:** The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a reflection on post-pandemic recovery and the challenges faced by the Church in encouraging people back to the Church and her Sacraments. The Bishops met for their Spring plenary meeting from 19 – 22 April 2021. In a reflection titled *The Day of the Lord*, the Bishops also praise families, parish communities and those who have worked tirelessly in hospitals, care homes, schools and prisons during these challenging times of ill-health, grief and isolation. The Bishops salute the leadership of our priests and also express gratitude for the 'immense efforts' of those who have provided food for those most in need. Full details from the day can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/04/Day-of-the-Lord-220421.pdf>

**Mass Attendance:** It has been a pleasure to see everyone returning to Mass as we slowly come out of lockdown. Unfortunately, restrictions issued by the Bishops of England and Wales and the Government, are still in place meaning that we cannot return to normal just yet. As you know these restrictions impact on the number of people we can have in the church for Masses, we are running a 'first come, first served' arrangement for Mass attendance. Both the 18:00 Saturday Mass and 10:00 Sunday Mass have been full for several weeks now and we have, unfortunately, had to turn people away. Should you wish to join us over the weekend our Sunday 08:30 Mass still has space and so you should hopefully stand a greater chance of securing a seat. We also have our monthly Extraordinary Form Mass held on the first Sunday of every month which also has more capacity. Thank you for your understanding.



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**Week Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021:** Please note that Fr. Lee will be on annual leave next week so there will be no weekday Masses. Weekday masses will recommence on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Weekend Masses will continue as normal during this time.

**COVID Guidance:** As the Government continues with the COVID Roadmap, Mass and other acts of worship are still subject to the Covid-security guidance published by the Bishops' Conference which they have issued following consultation with officials from Public Health England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The following rules still apply:

- Face coverings must be worn in places of worship, unless you are exempt. This is now law.
- You can leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, a funeral or event related to a death, a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony.
- You should follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship.
- Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone's death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances.

We are hoping that when Step Four commences, after the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021, it will bring fewer restrictions. Until that time we will continue to follow the guidance issued and look to keep everybody as safe as we can. Thank you for respecting these rulings.

**Welcome to our Parish:** We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new Parishioners to our Parish. Anyone that has not yet contacted us about registration to the Parish please do so via email to [stansted@diocesofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@diocesofbrentwood.org) or contact Clair via the Parish Office numbers above.

**Gift Aid Envelopes 2021/2022:** Gift Aid envelopes for the current financial year are now available. Please contact Clair in the office and she will arrange for them to be delivered to you. Should you have any questions about Gift Aid, or wish to become a contributor, please contact us via email: [Stansted-giftaid@diocesofbrentwood.org](mailto:Stansted-giftaid@diocesofbrentwood.org) or speak to Clair in the office.

**“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.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Tony Barrance R.I.P.</b> (T&M Rhead)
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	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>  Latin Mass (EF): <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May <i>Sts. Phillip &amp; James</i>	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May <i>English Martyrs</i>	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May <i>St. John Payne</i>	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>No Weekday Mass</b>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	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 9 <sup>th</sup> May	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>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)



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



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