

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

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## Gospel: John 10:11-18

*'The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep'.*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Acts 4:8-12</i>
<b>Psalms: 117:</b>	<i>The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>1 John 3:1-2</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday as well as being the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The scriptural passages today are about shepherds and in particular the Gospel which reflects on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the one who cares for and safeguards his flock.

Jesus provides for us, loves us and knows us. However, we are also called to be good shepherds to those who are entrusted to our care.

In the final part of today's Gospel, Jesus invites those who are touched and saved by the love of the Shepherd, to shepherd and care for others. "There are other sheep that are not of this fold and these I have to lead as well." Though Jesus cares for his own, he loves all of us and takes responsibility for all of us without exception, for God has created all of us and loves us all. Jesus ultimately dies because he cares for all peoples.

Jesus' reference to other sheep and to one flock (v. 16) points to the universality and unity of the community of believers. By "the other sheep" Jesus probably meant the poor, the tax collectors and sinners who were generally ostracised by society. We are now being challenged to recognise our own list of those whom we fear or scorn because their attitudes or behaviours differ from ours. We are all Shepherds. Whatever our particular flock is, we are expected to care and love and nourish our flock.

How comforting it is to know that we are so loved, so precious to Jesus that he will leave the rest of the flock to look for the one that has gone astray.

We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life, religious and lay so that we may have more holy, Spirit-filled shepherds to lead, feed, and care for the Church and her flock. Those who are called to make a lifelong commitment to serve as ordained ministers share the ministerial



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priesthood of Jesus. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations we are asked to encourage and pray for vocations to respond to God's call to serve His Church and His sheep.

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.**

### **Vocations Sunday**

This weekend as we celebrate Vocations Sunday, we are asked to pray for Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and the religious life. We are also asked to consider our own vocation, what is it that God is calling me to do for Him? We are reminded of the wonderful quote from St. John Henry Cardinal Newman "God has created me to do him some definite service." This means some service that only we can do. We are God's 'plan A' even if we think we may be too old, or not bright or holy enough to serve God in a particular way, He has equipped us for this definite service.

It might be worth meditating for a few moments today on one of the popular modern hymns that we have sometime sung on Vocations Sunday. The hymn is called 'servant song' and contains the words "What do you want of me, Lord? Where do you want me to serve you? Where can I sing your praises? I am your song." We, each and every one of us, has a vocation, a calling from God to be his song. It is of vital importance that the Church has ordained ministers and religious, and numbers of these who are saying yes to God in serving in this way have greatly diminished over the past 40-50 years. We are about to see what this great reduction means for us as a parish Church in the coming months and years ahead. The Church also needs faithful men and women to serve in different ways too, as fathers and mothers, as teachers, as doctors and nurses, as local councillors and members of parliament, in the armed forces and in the police force... Faithful Catholics serving God in every sphere of society. What is God calling you to do, and more importantly how will you answer?

Fr. Lee

### **Parish News**

**Volunteers:** Can you help? We are looking for two Stewards to oversee the 10:00 a.m. Masses on a Sunday. If you can help, under the age of 70 and fit and well then please contact Clair via [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org), or call the Parish office. With the current guidelines in place by the Bishops of England and Wales we are unable to hold Masses without stewards and will, unfortunately, have no choice but to cancel Masses if we have no Stewards. Thank you.



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**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; should you wish to have them, please contact Clair in the office and she will arrange for them to be delivered to you. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated during these difficult times; we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. We cannot thank you enough. 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> April <i>World Day of Pray for Vocations</i>	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>	People of the Parish
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April <i>St. Peter Canisius</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> April <i>St. Catherine of Siena</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	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>  Latin Mass (EF): 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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



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