

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9th May 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.sttheresastansted.org
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 814349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 816 889/07734 273 969

Gospel: John 15:9-17

'A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.'

1st Reading:	<i>Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48</i>
Psalms 97:	<i>The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>1 John 4:7-10</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The overarching message in today's Gospel passage is love. This passage forms part of the farewell discourse from Jesus to his disciples. Jesus tells the disciples that 'a man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.' He tells them that they are his friends because He has made known to them everything that He has learned from the Father.

'Love one another, as I have loved you.' A simple commandment but one that proves to be one of the most difficult for the world to keep. 'As I have loved you' means a selfless, sacrificial, forgiving, and serving love. It is not the feel-good self-indulgent love that TV commercials push, but a selfless, self-giving love — the kind of love that God has shown for us, the kind of love that led Jesus to the cross for us.

We can understand Jesus' love both as our model and as our motivation. If we are conscious of just how much love Jesus has showered upon us, the only appropriate response is to love in return, and to love by following His example. He is both our inspiration and our role-model.

Jesus tells the disciples that he calls them friends and not servants. The unmerited quality of this Divine friendship is further emphasised by Jesus' declaration in verse 16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you." Discipleship comes about by Divine choice, not by human merits and actions. The prescribed outcome of this choice is the disciples' ability now to go out and "bear fruit," bear abiding fruit. The love, the friendship that comes from Christ is tangibly manifested in the disciples' lives. Verse 16 concludes that, as friends of Jesus, the disciples have access to virtually unlimited power. They have only to invoke Jesus' name, and God will respond. The phrase "in my Name" denotes a prayer context, as well as suggesting that invoking Jesus' Name makes manifest the very presence of Jesus himself. Today's text concludes by setting the stage for the reason that the "world" hates Jesus' disciples. Disciples of Jesus do, in fact, love one another. The power of Christ's love and friendship in no way negates the reality of this world's ability to



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hate. That is why Jesus closes with a clear command that we must love one another, and even love those who hate us.

In moments of trial and stress, when people are hostile or ungrateful and we feel the pull of bitter resentment in our hearts, it is important for us to remember that Christ's own love was not limited to the people he liked. It is this that we need to pray daily for, the ability to put aside our differences and prejudices and to love each other unconditionally.

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 Ascension of the Lord: This Thursday (13th May) the Church celebrates the wonderful Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. For a number of years this feast was transferred to the Sunday following the actual date of the Feast, falling precisely forty days after Easter Day. This means the feast always falls on a Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter. Gladly, a few years ago the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales restored it to its proper date.

The Feast commemorates the Ascension of Christ into heaven, the accounts recorded in Sacred Scripture in the Gospels of Mark 16:19, and Luke 24:51, and in the book of Acts 1:2.

Among our Orthodox and Easter Rite Catholic brothers and sisters, this feast was known as analepsis, "the taking up", and also as the epizomene, the salvation, denoting that by ascending into His glory, Christ completed the work of our redemption. The terms used in the West, ascensio and, occasionally, ascensa, signify that Christ was raised up by His own powers. Tradition designates Mount Olivet near Bethany as the place where Christ left the earth. The feast is one of the Ecumenical feasts ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter and of Pentecost among the most solemn in the calendar.

To mark the importance of this wonderful Feast day, we will have two opportunities to attend Mass, our usual Mass at 9:30 a.m. and an extra Mass at 7:30 p.m. Confessions will be heard before each of these Masses as is our usual practice.



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Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar : A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Professor Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

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 21st 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@diocesesofbrentwood.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@dioceseofbrentwood.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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 8 th May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 9 th 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>	For the Intentions of Angelo Rava (Fr Lee) Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Monday 10 th May	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the Intentions of Becky (ill)
Tuesday 11 th May <i>Sts. Phillip & James</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the Intentions of Margaret Dabrowski (B. Dabrowski)
Wednesday 12 th May <i>St. John Houghton</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bill Blythe R.I.P. (H. Bennett)
Thursday 13 th May <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass: 7:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 14 th May <i>St. Matthias</i>	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>	Margaret Rimmer R.I.P. (T. Grace)
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B		
Saturday 15 th May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 16 th May <i>World Communications Day</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>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)



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



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