

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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## Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

*'A prophet is only despised in his own country'*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Ezekiel 2:2-5</i>
<b>Psalms 122:</b>	<i>Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>2 Corinthians 12:7-10</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's readings introduce Jesus as a prophet and explain how prophets and other messengers from God inevitably suffer rejection. The readings challenge us, as followers of Christ, to face rejection and difficulties with courage.

The first reading, taken from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, tells us about his call from God to be a prophet. The LORD warns Ezekiel that he is being sent to obstinate and rebellious Israelites in exile in Babylon. Hence, as God's prophet, he will have to face rejection and persecution for giving God's message. This reading warns us that, as Christians who accept the Way of Jesus and seek to follow it, we also may face persecution, insults, and rejection.

In the second reading, St. Paul gives us the same warning from his own experience, that not only prophets, but apostles and missionaries will encounter hardships and rejection in their preaching mission. Paul confesses that God has given him a share in Christ's suffering – a chronic illness which causes physical suffering — a “thorn in the flesh,” — so that he might rely solely on God's grace in all his work and might glory in the power of the strengthening God Who alone sustains him. The apostle invites us to rise above our own weaknesses and disabilities, cooperating with the grace of God and proclaiming His message by word and example as Paul did.

In the Gospel, Jesus visits his hometown, Nazareth. On the Sabbath day, Jesus goes to the local synagogue and is asked to address the congregation. In the synagogue it was customary that any distinguished person present might be asked to speak by the leader of the synagogue. Jesus' reputation as a preacher and miracle worker would have been well known and so he was asked to read from the prophets and explain the text.



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Mark's Gospel account shows us that many people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they knew Jesus and the family. They refused to believe that this lowly "son of the carpenter" could be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendent of David's royal family. This perceived lack of any distinguished lineage was underlined with the townsfolk referring to Jesus as the "son of Mary", rather than with the traditional title of "son of Joseph" (Bar Joseph). This was effectively an insult as in the culture of the day, men were identified by who their fathers were. This led to Jesus responding that no prophet is accepted in his own country, a point that the apostle John made clear in John 1:10-11 when he said of Christ, "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him."

This story of Jesus' rejection in Nazareth is something that many of us will be able to identify with because it is something that has happened to many of us. In our lives we may have experienced rejection, betrayal, trauma, neglect, abuse, or a violation of our trust. This can lead us to become hard hearted and in turn lead us to reject those modern-day prophets that God sends to us to help us in our difficulties. Unlike the townspeople in Nazareth, we need to be open to seeing God's image in those around us and not dismissive of those we think have nothing to offer because of their status or lack of it.

God works in mysterious ways and often not in the way we want or expect. Let us pray that we always remain open to learning from rejection and see it as an opportunity to strengthen our faith and courage to continue even when we have been hurt.

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**

**Bill Spencer R.I.P:** Please remember Bill Spencer, in your prayers who sadly died on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Please pray for Rosemary, his family, and friends during this difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Funeral details to follow.

**COVID Guidance:** Following the recent Government announcement of 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 apply from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021:**

- 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.
- Stewards are only required for weekend Masses.
- 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.



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- Funerals or commemorative events linked to someone's death are no longer capped but determined by the size of venue permitted under current COVID rules.
- Weddings are no longer capped but determined by the size of venue permitted under current COVID rules.
- Private Baptisms can now take place with the maximum number of 30 attendees.

As we approach Step Four which will commence after 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, we continue to hope it will still 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.

**First Holy Communion Programme 2021/2022:** Should you wish your child to be registered for the First Holy Communion programme commencing September 2021, please contact Clair by email or phone (details above) no later than noon on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021**. (Late registration will mean your child will be registered for the 2022-2023 group). Your child will need to be in Year 3 or above from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. The workshops dates and an administration meeting with the new group and parents will be arranged in due course. Please look out for further details. Those of you that registered your child for the 2020-2021 group, which we delayed due to COVID, will automatically be included in this programme. Should you no longer wish your child to take part please contact Clair ASAP.

**Baptism Courses:** The next baptism course will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7:00 p.m. in the church. There will be no course during the month of August, the next course after that will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course please e-mail the Parish Office [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) Thank you.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Catholics must approach Fr. Lee / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to their intended wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

**St. Therese of Lisieux - Wood Carved Statue:** The beautiful statue of St. Therese of Lisieux has arrived and has been placed in the church and will be blessed on Saturday (26<sup>th</sup> June). We will continue to raise funds to cover the cost of the statue and pedestal. Should you wish to donate in memory of a loved one or any other dedication please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Lee or Deacon Des. Alternatively, you can place your donation with dedication, into an envelope and post it through the Presbytery letter box or place it into the donation trays at the exit. All dedications will be listed in a memorial book.

**Cashless Donations:** We are pleased to confirm that we are now able to offer you the option of making cashless donations via our new QR codes system. The codes have been placed by the exit of the church, next to the donation baskets. This system allows you to make payments via your mobile phone directly into our account for one of the set amounts or an amount of your choice. Please remember to gift aid the payment if you are eligible, it can make a big difference to the parish. Thank you.

**“Visions” Zoom Group:** Held every Tuesday at 2:30 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



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Rene Warren R.I.P.</b> (Fr. Lee)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July</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>  Latin Mass (EF): <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)  <b>Proclamation of Jesus Christ as King of Poland by the Polish Nation</b> (P. Zawadzki)
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass of Requiem: <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>For the Intentions of Mary Grace</b>  <b>Maria Castaneda R.I.P.</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Eileen Barker</b> (L. Barker)
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the Intentions of Angelo Rava</b> (C.Rava)
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Rene Warren R.I.P.</b> (S. Wood)
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Holy Souls</b> (J & C Welsh)
<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Bill Spencer R.I.P.</b> (Fr. Lee)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July</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>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)

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



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