

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 13th June 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 4:26-34

It is the smallest of all seeds; yet it grows into the biggest shrub of all

1st Reading: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

Psalm 91: 2-3, 13-16 *It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

2nd Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:6-10*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel forms part of what is described in Mark's Gospel as the "Kingdom parables." They are described as such because they announce, "the Kingdom of God is like..." The Gospel begins today with the parable of the harvest. Jesus describes the farmer planting the seed and harvesting the crop but not knowing how the seed sprouts and grows. Jesus then gives us the parable of the mustard seed, and in both of these parables and in the parable earlier in Mark's Gospel, the parable of the sower, the Kingdom of God is likened to a seed. We are called to do what we can, plant the seed and nurture it, but God alone can provide the growth.

The picture painted in the Parable of the Mustard Seed by Jesus is of the humble beginnings of the Church experiencing an explosive rate of growth. While growth itself was the primary focus of the first seed parable, the mustard seed comparison emphasises the contrast between tiny beginnings and tremendous endings. The mustard seed was proverbially used to describe something of minuscule proportions (see Matthew 17:20), in first century culture.

Jesus explains that the kingdom of God grows this way in human souls. The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit Him to nurture it with tender loving care, it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But this seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the Word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments, and prayer. Finally, God's rule in the human heart transforms individuals and communities into God's people doing His will in His kingdom.

The message of the parable is quite simple and direct. The reign of God will grow to its fullness, despite all obstacles. In those who accept Jesus as their God and Saviour, the Will of God will also be accepted in all



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areas of their lives with the help of the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. The Church of Jesus Christ had a tiny beginning in the work of an obscure teacher and a pitifully small group of ordinary people. But one of the proofs of the Divine origin of the Church of Christ is its growth from such a very humble beginning. No wonder the Church has become the greatest of all shrubs, the world-wide Church that welcomes people of all races and nations into her fold, celebrating the marvel of growth!

The parable of the mustard seed is a word of encouragement for us. Things might not be what you and I want them to be, but there is still hope. God works in mysterious ways. God is still with us even when our efforts are frustrated, because He is the Source of growth. Growth often starts out small like a mustard seed and then blossoms into something huge.

The second thing these words of Jesus do is to remind us that while we are called to do something, we are not called to do everything. We scatter the seed, but the growth is up to God. The same process works in the Christian life. We practice daily prayer and Bible reading. We find ways to be of service to others. We pledge money and time to the Church and charitable purposes. We join the people of God at the altar regularly. These are some of the seeds that God uses to mould and shape our lives in love, peace and hope. But the shaping happens at God's own pace and as we are willing and able to cooperate with Him.

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

COVID Guidance: As the Government enters its latest phase 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 17th May 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.
- 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 and Private Baptisms can now take place with the maximum number of 30 attendees.

As we approach Step Four which will commence after 21st June 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.



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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 21st 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 1st 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 16th June, and 15th July at 7:00 p.m. in the church. To enrol on the course please e-mail the Parish Office 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: As donations continue to be made, we are still hoping to purchase a beautiful and unique statue of St. Therese of Lisieux. It is hand-carved and hand-painted oak and, for an antique piece, is in excellent condition. The cost of the statue and pedestal will come to a little over £3,000 and we are hoping very much to raise this amount. We have placed posters of the statue at the exit of the church for you to see when leaving Mass. 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 place that through the Presbytery letter box or into the donation trays at the exit. All dedications will be listed in a memorial book.

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.

Married Couples Retreat 'Our Daily Love' - 18th - 20th June 2021 on zoom or in person: A retreat for couples, organised by the Married Couples of the Verbum Dei Missionary Family in UK. An opportunity to embrace marriage and grow in our daily love in marriage. With talks, prayer, workshops and opportunity for couples dialogue with suggested activities for children. For more details, please contact verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

“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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 12th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bill Blythe RIP (H. Bennett)
Sunday 13th June	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 2nd Anniversary of Diaconal Ordination of Rev. Des Connors
Monday 14th June	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 15th June	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	2nd Anniversary of Diaconal Ordination of Rev. Des Connors (Fr. Lee)
Wednesday 16th June	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Baptism Course: 7:00 p.m. in Church	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Thursday 17th June	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 18th June	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>	
TWELTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 19th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th June	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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