

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 20th 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 4:35-41

'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him'

1st Reading:	<i>Job 38:1, 8-11</i>
Psalms 106 (107)	<i>O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>2 Corinthians 5:14-17</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The role of God in calming the storms of life is the central theme of the readings for this Sunday. The first reading tells us how the Lord speaks to Job whose life was devastated by storms of the total **loss** of his possessions, the **deaths** of his dear ones, and a whole-body **disease** that left him in misery. “Out of the storm,” God reminds Job that He is in control. Today’s Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 107) picks up the storm theme and tells us how the Lord saves the sailors caught up in the high waves of a tempest by first “raising up a storm wind,” then “hushing the storm to a gentle breeze.” “They who sailed the sea in ships ... saw the works of the Lord and His wonders in the abyss.” The second reading explains that Jesus died for us to make us a “new creation.” In order to receive Jesus’ gift of love, we must respond with our loving self-surrender, living for Jesus in all situations of our lives. In other words, Paul celebrates the saving significance of the Paschal mystery – Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection – and of our participation in it. Today’s Gospel describes how, by a commanding word, Jesus stilled a storm on the Sea of Galilee, returned the sea to its natural order and saved the apostles from drowning. The incident reminds us to keep Jesus in our life’s boat and to seek Jesus’ help in the storms of life.

The Sea of Galilee is a lake, more than six hundred feet below sea level. It is a lake thirteen miles long from north to south and eight miles broad from east to west at its widest. But it is notorious for its sudden storms. On the west side there are hills with valleys and gullies, and rivers have cut deep ravines through the tablelands down into the sea. When a cold wind blows from the west, the valleys, gullies, and hills act like gigantic funnels compressing the storms and letting them rush down to the lake to create violent waves. The compressed wind rushes down upon the lake with savage violence and with startling suddenness, causing violent and unexpected storms.

Even though many of the disciples are themselves fishermen, and thus, presumably, are familiar with the turbulent moods of the lake, it is they who grow terrified and panicky, while Jesus, the landsman, serenely



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sleeps in the stern. Unable to control their fears, the disciples wake Jesus up, accusing him of disregarding their safety. Jesus' response is immediate. First, Jesus attends to the physical danger confronting them, rebuking the wind, and commanding the sea, "Peace! Be still!" These are the same words Jesus used to exorcise and banish the demon at the beginning of Mark's Gospel (1:25). The words are a direct order, demonstrating Jesus' power over destructive forces – forces within (1:21-28) and forces outside (4:35-41). Jesus' words here result in an instantaneous calm falling over the sea. This miracle proves that Jesus is master of the natural world, able to control the mysterious, humanly untameable side of creation.

Just as the disciples had accused Jesus of abandoning them during the tumult, Jesus now turns to his followers and chides them, asking, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have Faith?" Mark's miracle story asks us to consider two questions. First, "Who is Jesus?" (v.41), and second, "Will you trust this Jesus?" The disciples fail on both counts on this occasion. Even though they do not suspect Jesus' true identity, they accept Him with joy as their Master, but they are incapable of trusting in Jesus' love and care for them in situations they themselves cannot control. They panic, overwhelmed by fear, doubt, and insecurity on this stormy voyage. Jesus stills the storm as if exorcising a demon in much the same way as we see in many of Mark's miracle stories. That is the whole point of the story: nothing could harm the disciples while Jesus was with them. Many people have found great comfort in sensing Jesus' constant presence in the most difficult and dangerous crises.

Many of the Fathers of the Church consider this miracle story as an allegory of the early Church. The boat in the stormy lake is a symbol of the Church facing challenges and heresies from inside and various forms of suppression and persecution from outside. The early Church faced fierce persecution in the first three centuries. It was followed by a calm period, but that period was plagued with heresies, culminating in the Protestant Reformation Movement. The faithful in such situations wondered if Jesus had deserted the Church. But in their desperate cry for help they were able to experience the inner peace and strength of Jesus. Very often the Church and the faithful have no control over the political and social developments of our society. But no matter what we are experiencing, we can — with the help of Jesus — find peace. It is the peace which only Jesus can give. And it is a peace which no person, no thing, and no situation can take away from 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

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 Tuesday 15th 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 19th 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 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 Wednesday 14th 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 collecting the beautiful statue of St. Therese of Lisieux this week. For this reason, there will be **no Mass on Monday (21st June)**. We will continue to raise funds to cover the cost of the statue and pedestal. You will have seen the posters of the statue at the entrance and exit of the church. 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.

Thank you: A big thank you to the teams of people helping with the maintenance of the church grounds, all your hard work is much appreciated.

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 or contact Clair via the Parish Office numbers above.

“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

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 19 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 20 th 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)
Monday 21 st June	No Mass	
Tuesday 22 nd June <i>St Paulinus</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the Intentions of Bernadette Barker (L. Barker)
Wednesday 23 rd June	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Sr. Maura Keane RIP Sr. Anna RIP Sr. Austin RIP Sr. Antonime RIP (B Thurogood)
Thursday 24 th June <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 25 th 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>	
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 26 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Laurence McCreanor RIP (S. Wood)
Sunday 27 th 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 Thanksgiving for the Wee Family (The Wee Family)



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



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