

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 18th 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 6:30-34

'They were like sheep without a shepherd'

1st Reading:	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6</i>
Psalms 22:	<i>The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Ephesians 2:13-18</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's readings contain the common theme of the Good Shepherd. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah denounces the leaders of Israel – the king, some priests, and some court prophets – because they have shown no concern for the poor. The prophet also foretells the rise of a new, good shepherd in the family-line of David. Then he consoles the Israelites enslaved in Babylon, assuring them that God will lead them back to their original pasture in Israel.

In the second reading, St. Paul introduces Jesus as the shepherd of both the Jews and the Gentiles and explains how Jesus, the good shepherd, has reconciled all of us with His Father by offering Himself on the cross. Paul also speaks about another reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles, brought about by Jesus' accepting both into the same Christian brotherhood.

The reading from the Gospel of Mark presents Jesus as the good shepherd fulfilling God's promise given through His prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. The apostles have returned jubilant but weary, from their first preaching mission. Jesus instructs them to go with him to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. However, it is not long before the people arrive in a large crowd and Jesus is moved by pity for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

This passage reveals to us the merciful heart of Jesus, full of compassion for those who are hungry and thirsty for the word of God. It teaches us that the mission of those who follow Christ should be based on the Gospel of compassion and forgiveness, and that in the service of God we must be ready to forsake our own time and our own rest in the service of others.

We need God's grace to become good shepherds: The Christian life is a continuous passage from the presence of God to the presence of people and back to God again. Prayer is essentially listening to God and talking to Him. We should allow God the opportunity to speak to us and recharge us with spiritual energy



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and strength by setting aside enough time for Him to speak to us and for us to speak to Him. He speaks to us powerfully when we spend some time every day reading the Bible devoutly and meditating on the message God gives us in Scripture. We receive strength from God to do our share of the shepherd's preaching and healing ministry by asking for it individually, in the family, and as a community in the parish Church, participating in the Eucharistic celebration.

The Church has the double responsibility of teaching and feeding: There can be no true Christianity without the proclamation of the Gospel. Teaching the Word of God is essential to a Christian community. Christians must also display the compassion of Jesus by meeting the social and material needs of others by our works of charity as individual Christians and as a parish community.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and as followers of His we are also called to be good pastors and shepherds to those for whom we have responsibility.

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

Weekday Masses: Please note that from **Monday (19th July)** no weekday Masses will be held for three weeks whilst Fr. Lee has his summer break. Weekday masses will recommence on **Monday 9th August**. Weekend Masses will continue as normal during this time.

Rene Warren R.I.P. The Requiem Mass for Rene will take place here at St. Theresa's this Friday (23rd July 2021) at 12:30 p.m., followed by interment at Henham Village Cemetery.

COVID Guidance: As you are aware the Government announcement regarding the end of the COVID restrictions was made on Monday 12th July with the end of restrictions coming into place on Monday 19th July. At the moment of writing, we are still awaiting the guidance and instructions from the Bishops' Conference. Once we have these, we shall communicate them as soon as we are able.

The following rules apply until further notice:

- 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 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.



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We continue to hope that the 19th July will bring an end to the restrictions and until then 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: This is the final call for registering for the First Holy Communion Course. Should you wish your child to be registered for the programme commencing September 2021, please contact Clair by email or phone (details above) **by noon this 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: There will be no course during the month of August, the next will be Wednesday 15th September at 7:00 p.m. 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.

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.

St. Therese of Lisieux - Wood Carved Statue: A huge thank you to all those who have been so generous in donating towards the statue, the response had been tremendous. A Mass will be offered for all benefactors on the feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux on Friday 1st October 2021. 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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 17 th July	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Russell Wood R.I.P. (S. Wood)
Sunday 18 th July	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>	Martin Fitzpatrick R.I.P. (B. Horton) People of the Parish
Monday 19 th July	No Mass	
Tuesday 20 th July <i>St. Jerome Emiliani</i>	No Mass	
Wednesday 21 st July	No Mass	
Thursday 22 nd July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	No Mass	
Friday 23 rd July <i>St Bridget of Sweden</i>	Mass of Requiem: 12:30 p.m. Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Rene Warren R.I.P
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 24 th July	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Rene Warren R.I.P (M. Oakes)
Sunday 25 th July	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>	Maureen Fitzpatrick R.I.P. (B. Horton) People of the Parish

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



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