

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25th July 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.sttheresasstansted.org

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 814 349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 07748 464 101

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

Gospel: John 6:1-15

'The feeding of the five thousand'

1st Reading:	<i>2 Kings 4:42-44</i>
Psalms 144: 10-11; 15-18	<i>You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Ephesians 4:1-6</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.</i>

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The Lectionary today provides us with the Gospel account from John and the miraculous feeding of the five thousand. This miracle of the loaves is found in all four Gospels, although the context and emphasis vary. Other than the resurrection, this is the only miracle told in all the Gospels. Theologically, this miracle has clear Eucharistic significance.

John places this story of the miracle as a precursor to an extended reflection on the Eucharist and Jesus as the Bread of Life. The symbolism of the Eucharist is exemplified in Jesus' blessing, breaking, and giving of the loaves. The sharing of the Eucharistic bread is a sign of the community that is called to share and provide for each other in abundance for the needs of its members.

The word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action, "to give thanks." When we receive the Blessed Sacrament, we are fed by Jesus and are sent to serve others. In addition, we see first-hand in this story, Jesus attending to the most basic of human needs, hunger, with the care and compassion of the Good Shepherd.

This illustrates to us, that for God nothing is impossible. Today, studies show us that the world produces enough food grain to provide every human being on the planet with 3,600 calories a day, this does not include other food sources such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, meats, and fish. These figures show us that there is no reason why any human being should go hungry. Yet despite this, even in the developed world and amongst the rich and affluent countries in the west, millions are homeless, without food or clothing, and families living in poverty. Pope St. John XXIII said in 1961, "The problem in feeding the world's hungry population lies with our political lack of will, our economic system biased in favour of the affluent, our militarism, and our tendency to blame the victims of social tragedies such as famine. We all share responsibility for the fact that populations are undernourished. Therefore, it is necessary to arouse a sense of responsibility in individuals, especially among those more blessed with this world's goods." (Pope St. John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra* (1961) 157-58).



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It is our responsibility as Christians to do all we can to help those who suffer and hunger. We may feel that we do not possess the resources or the ability to make a difference, but we would be wrong. This is illustrated by Mother Teresa who went to serve the slum dwellers of Calcutta with just a few coins in her pocket. When she died forty-nine years later, God had turned those original few coins into eighty schools, three hundred mobile dispensaries, seventy leprosy clinics, thirty homes for the dying, thirty homes for abandoned children, and forty thousand volunteers from all over the world to help her. We can begin our own humble efforts at “sharing” right in our parish by participating in the works of charity done by organisations like the St. Vincent De Paul Society, the Knights of Columba and so many other volunteer groups. We may say, “I do not have enough money or talent to make any difference.” But we need to remember that the small boy in the story had only five barley loaves and two dried fish.

Nothing is impossible for God.

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 there are currently no weekday Masses over the next two 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.

COVID Guidance: From Monday 19th July many of the legal restrictions around measures to prevent the spread of COVID -19 were lifted in England. This does not mean that coronavirus has gone away. We will have to learn to live with COVID -19 for the foreseeable future, managing the risk for ourselves and others.

The guidance issued by the Bishops’ Conference, whilst encouraging, enables us to move forward with a cautious approach, allowing us to take local infection rates etc. into consideration when keeping/removing certain restrictions.

The following guidance is in place at St. Theresa’s for the time being:

- Holy Water Stoups are still not permitted.
- Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and Fr. Lee/Deacon Des will continue to sanitise their hands beforehand. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand but those who wish to receive on the tongue may do so.
- The wearing of face coverings in church will be down to personal choice and is no longer required by law. We would encourage the continuation of masks if desirable.
- The physical Sign of Peace remains suspended.
- Benches will, for the time being, remain social distanced with a view to moving everything back to normal in September 2021.
- We shall continue to provide hand sanitiser at the entrances/exit and encourage people to continue using them.
- We shall endeavour to keep the large front doors open to ensure some ventilation in church.



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- We shall continue to clean the church, paying particular attention to common touch points such as door handles.
- Our QR Code will remain visible for those that wish to scan it via the NHS App.
- We ask anyone feeling unwell or anyone who tests positive for COVID to please stay at home.

At present it is the intention of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, to reintroduce the Obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation from the 1st Sunday of Advent (28th November 2021), until that time, it remains suspended.

We shall look to slowly reintroduce those things that have been suspended due to COVID over the next few months and will of course communicate these with you. We will continue to follow the guidance issued and take local information into consideration to keep everybody as safe as we can. Thank you.

Thank you to our Stewards & Volunteers: The removal of the restrictions means that Stewards are no longer required at Mass. Fr. Lee and Deacon Des would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to everyone who has volunteered over the last 18 months to ensure that we were able to remain open, when allowed to do so, throughout the whole of lockdown. Without your help opening the Church would have been impossible so thank you again for your service. We shall be holding a Mass of Thanksgiving in September, details of which will be advertised in the Newsletter. Thank you again.

Living Laudato Si – Online Retreat – 15th – 18th October 2021: Open to all, this retreat will help personal prayer and reflection, and parish action, on the critical issue of care for God’s creation. Bishop Alan will open the retreat, which will be led by expert speakers. For more information see the poster at the church entrance or email laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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.

Parish Office: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Thursday 29th July 2021 and reopen on Tuesday 10th August 2021. Thank you.

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.

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: The group will be taking a summer break returning in September.



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Mass Times and Intentions

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 <i>World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly</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>	Maureen Fitzpatrick R.I.P. (B. Horton) People of the Parish
Monday 26 th July <i>S.t Joachim & Anne, Parents of BVM</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 27 th July	No Mass	
Wednesday 28 th July	No Mass	
Thursday 29 th July <i>St. Martha</i>	No Mass	
Friday 30 th July	Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 31 st July	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	James Braeckman R.I.P. (F. Braeckman)
Sunday 1 st August	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> Latin Mass (EF): 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge) Gregory Barker (L. Barker)

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



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