

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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

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## Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

*'The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.'*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10</i>
<b>Psalms 44:</b>	<i>On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:20-26</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up to heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The Feast of the Assumption is one of the most important feasts in the Church dedicated to Our Lady. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that when Mary's earthly life was finished, she was assumed into Heaven, body, and soul, where the Lord exalted her, and she was crowned as the Queen of Heaven.

It was Pope Pius XII, who officially declared the Assumption as a Dogma of Catholic Faith, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1950. However, the belief that Mary was assumed, body and soul into Heaven had been held as a belief by Christians for many centuries. In AD 325, the Council of Nicaea spoke of the Assumption of Mary. Writing in AD 457, the Bishop of Jerusalem said that when Mary's tomb was opened, it was "found empty." The apostles judged her body had been taken into Heaven. Pope Pius XII based his declaration of the Assumption on both tradition and theology. The uninterrupted tradition in the Eastern Churches starting from the first century with the Orthodox Church beginning to commemorate the "falling asleep" of the Virgin Mary from as early as the sixth century. There is a tomb at the foot of the Mt. of Olives where ancient tradition says that Mary was laid. But there is nothing inside. There are no relics, as with the other saints.

This observance gradually then spread to the West, where it became known as the feast of the Assumption, becoming widely accepted by most Catholic theologians by the 13th century, until the declaration by Pope Pius XII, through the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, formally declaring this as Catholic Dogma.

Despite there being no scriptural reference to the Assumption in the New Testament, Pope St. John Paul II addressed this when he said, "Although the New Testament does not explicitly affirm Mary's Assumption, it offers a basis for it because it strongly emphasised the Blessed Virgin's perfect union with Jesus' destiny. This union, which is manifested, from the time of the Saviour's miraculous conception, in the Mother's participation in her Son's mission and especially in her association with his Redemptive sacrifice, cannot fail to require a continuation after death. Perfectly united with the life and saving work of Jesus,



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Mary shares His Heavenly destiny in body and soul. There are, thus, passages in Scripture that resonate with the Assumption, even though they do not spell it out.”

Mary’s Assumption gives us the assurance and hope of our own resurrection and assumption into Heaven on the day of our Last Judgment. It is a sign to us that someday, through God’s grace and our good life, we, too, will join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. It points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate Mary’s fidelity and obedience to God’s will. On this special feast today, we should turn all our worries and concerns over to our Heavenly Mother who continuously intercedes for us with her Son.

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:** From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Benches will, for the time being, remain socially 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.
- 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 who 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (28<sup>th</sup> 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.



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**A note from the Parish Finance Committee:** The committee has continued to meet throughout the pandemic via Zoom and in early July the following matters were discussed:

- **Church boiler** - You may recall that the boiler was replaced at a cost of £9000 in 2015. However, the heat exchanger now needs replacing. The cost of stripping down the boiler and replacing the part is similar to that of replacing the boiler with no guarantee that other parts won't fail in the near future. The warranty expired in 2017. We are currently exploring whether there is any way of fixing the issue but the likelihood is that the boiler will need to be replaced.
- **External Decoration** - The paint finish on the East façade of the Church and south façade of the Parish Centre has now reached the end of its useful life. To prolong the life of those windows and doors redecoration is now required – the cost of not doing so is prohibitive. We are obtaining competitive quotes, but the likely cost will be around £6000.
- **Defibrillator** - As part of our social mission we are looking into the possibility of getting funding to house a defibrillator at the Church, the likely cost is around £2000.

The Finance Committee is very aware that parishioners have been very generous in their support of the upgrade to the Church IT systems, St. Theresa's statue etc. and we do not feel able to launch specific appeals to cover these expenditures although any contributions would always be accepted. Unfortunately, as the buildings age maintenance costs will rise, we are fortunate to have some funds available to us but we do feel that we need to keep the parish aware of what costs are being incurred.

**Flower Arranging:** Many of you will be aware that Mary Rhead and Annette Richardson have for many years looked after and created some beautiful flower arrangements in the Church at Christmas, Easter and First Holy Communion Masses. We all owe you a big thank you for your wonderful efforts over the years. However, both of them now wish to step aside and "retire" and we are looking for volunteers to take over that role. You do not need specific flower arranging skills but just a willingness to source and look after the flowers displayed on the altar.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Clair Rava in the Parish Office. Thank you.

**Cambridge Road Gate Access to Church:** Please be aware that this path is currently undergoing essential maintenance, when weather permits, and the gate will be locked on weekdays for this purpose. A notice has been placed on the pedestrian gate entrances. The notices will be removed when the work is complete.

**Living Laudato Si – Online Retreat – 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Baptism Courses:** There will be no course during the month of August, the next 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.



## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Mary O'Regan R.I.P.</b> (S. O'Regan)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August</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>Domenica De Nicolò R.I.P.</b> (The Rava Family)  <b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>St. Hyacinth</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>St. Helena</i>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Zenon Handzel R.I.P.</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Bill Spencer R.I.P.</b> (J&C Welsh)
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>St. Bernard</i>	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>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August</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> (M. Lambe)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</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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