

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

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

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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## Gospel: John 6:60-69

*'Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.'*

<b>1st Reading:</b>	<i>Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18</i>
<b>Psalms 33:</b>	<i>Taste and see that the Lord is good.</i>
<b>2nd Reading:</b>	<i>Ephesians 5:21-32</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation:</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
<b>Communion Antiphon:</b>	<i>The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.</i>

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel presents us with the moment when those who followed Jesus had to decide whether to continue in faith with him on his journey or abandon him. This passage in John's Gospel follows on from the Eucharistic discourse that has been the theme of the last few weeks in our liturgical journey.

Sadly, apart from the twelve, many deserted him due to not having the faith to believe in Jesus despite what they had seen and heard with their own eyes and ears. When Jesus saw that many who had initially followed him were now leaving, he turned to the apostles and said, 'Will you also leave me?' Peter responds with, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy one of God.'

This is one of the clearest and greatest professions of faith in the Gospel. Peter is stating clearly that Jesus is not just a wonderful preacher and healer of ailments, but that He was the Holy One of God. Jesus provides us with the words of eternal life, and we can come and listen to these words each Sunday when he speaks to us through the Gospel reading.

'Will you also leave me?' These words are also addressed to us today. The Lord does not abandon us or leave us alone. It is we who become discouraged and may end up leaving him. We need to use the words that Peter did in his great profession of faith: 'Lord. To whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.'

For all of us this question from Jesus is a decisive moment. One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is freedom of choice. God does not use us as His puppets, but rather allows us to make our own choices, and this is a sign that God loves us. We have the ability to always choose between good and evil. Since we have been given this freedom, we must choose one or the other. Even to make no choice is a choice.

However, this does not mean that God has left us to ourselves. He has given us his Son and his life on earth and the graces that flow from Jesus to help us make the right choice.



Please familiarise yourselves with the location of the fire exits, extinguishers, and assembly points at this church.

To follow Christ means we will always be free. Being free does not mean that we do whatever we like, but when we do what is right.

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 to 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.

**Viscount Simon (Jan) R.I.P:** Please remember Jan in your prayers, who sadly died earlier this week. Please pray for Fiona, his daughter and all the family during this difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.



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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.

**Parish Office:** Please note that the Parish Office is currently closed and will reopen on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Thank you.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<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)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>St. Bartholomew</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> <i>St. Monica</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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B</b>		
<b>Saturday 28<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>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)
<b>Sunday 29<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>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Viscount Simon (Jan) R.I.P</b>

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



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