

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29th August 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.sttheresastansted.org

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett frlee@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 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: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

'You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

1st Reading: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8*

Psalms 14: *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

2nd Reading: *James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel from Mark reminds us of what is truly important to God. The primary reason we are here is to worship God. Jesus saw that the religious leaders were more interested in the rules that governed religious observance and tradition than worshipping God. The Pharisees had become so fixated on rules that they had lost sight of what true worship means.

Jesus quotes from Isaiah directly to the Pharisees when he says, 'This people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.' The most damning thing that can be said about someone's worship is that the person's heart is not in it. If this is so, worship has become merely lip-service. God does not want this type of worship, but rather that the person's heart is in it.

The Pharisees ask Jesus why it is that his own disciples did not observe the tradition and rules around eating with unclean hands, and the correct way to wash cups and plates as outlined in the Hebrew scriptures. Jesus pointed out to them that they were more interested in the outside and of keeping up appearances than the inside. They were more interested in having clean hands than having clean hearts. The Pharisees prided themselves on being virtuous and looked down on everyone else. They were only concerned with enforcing rigorous rules without offering a hand to those in need to help lighten the burden.

We must always guard against becoming like the Pharisees. Replacing mercy with condemnation and placing appearance over substance. There is nothing wrong with tradition. The Church has a very rich tradition of worship. However, if we are present in our religious worship in voice only then our worship becomes mere lip-service. If our worship is not grounded in love for others and for God, then we become just like the Pharisees.



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God does not judge us on how well we dress when we attend Church. Rather He judges us by what is present in our hearts. When we forgive, do we truly forgive from the heart or is our forgiveness just hollow words.

It is truly sad, when we meet those who consider themselves true followers of Christ because they observe all the tradition and ritual in the Church, but are lacking warmth, love, and mercy for those they consider inferior.

How can one call themselves a true follower of Christ if they harbour ill will because they consider an action or word done or spoken to be against what they consider to be the most important aspect of religious worship, adherence to the rules as they see them?

The Gospel places great emphasis on the heart, and the reason for this is that the heart is the source from which all our thoughts, words, and deeds flow. If the heart is clean and pure then everything that pours from it will be too. The Pharisees paid more attention to the outside than the inside. They were more interested in having clean hands than having clean hearts.

Only God can see what is truly in the heart, and only he can make our hearts into what they should be.
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 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.
- 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.



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- 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 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 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.

Parish Working Parties: As part of our ‘getting back to normal’ process we are looking to create two working parties for a deep clean of the Parish Centre and the Church. This will involve moving the benches in the Church, which are very heavy, please be aware of this when you volunteer. We are hoping to hold these during the week commencing 13th September 2021. If you are able to help, please email Clair or leave a message on the answer phone with the dates and times you can assist, and we will pull together a rota. Clair is currently on leave; however, she will pick up all the messages upon her return and contact you regarding the confirmed dates, times etc.

The Comboni Missionaries: The Comboni Missionaries are an international Catholic religious and missionary Order founded by Bishop Daniel Comboni in Verona (Italy) in 1867, specifically to serve the missionary endeavour of the Catholic Church. The Missionaries, chosen by the Diocese as this year’s appeal, will be visiting us here at St. Theresa’s on the weekend of 11th and 12th September 2021, do please be as generous as you can. Should you wish to view what they do you can visit their website: <https://www.comboni.org.uk/index.html> .

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

Mass Intentions: We have a few vacancies for Mass Intentions during the week and on Sunday. As the Parish office is closed, should you wish to book an intention, please contact Fr. Lee directly. 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 – 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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 28 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 29 th 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>	People of the Parish Viscount Simon (Jan) R.I.P
Monday 30 th August	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 31 st August	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Gabriel Barker (L. Barker)
Wednesday 1 st September	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Eve (Joey) Braekman R.I.P. (The Braekman Family)
Thursday 2 nd September	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 3 rd September <i>St. Gregory the Great</i>	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>	
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 4 th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Thanksgiving for those who volunteered in Church during Lockdown (Fr. Lee)
Sunday 5 th September	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> Mass (EF) (Latin): 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish

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



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