

The Little Flower Messenger

Year B – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5th September 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 7:31-37

'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'

1st Reading: *Isaiah 35:4-7*

Psalms 145: *My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

2nd Reading: *James 2:1-5*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The Gospel today shows Jesus healing a deaf man. Mark in this Gospel passage shows Jesus fulfilling the prophecy contained in the first reading: 'The ears of the deaf will be unsealed, and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.' In other words, Jesus is the one who will bring salvation to Israel.

This Gospel passage at first sight may appear as having not much relevance to us today. However, we would be very much mistaken.

Even if we do not have physical handicaps to contend with, the fact is that many of us are wounded and suffering. These inner wounds may be because of childhood trauma or grief, or failure at work or in relationships.

We can also be wounded by our inability to forgive and to let go of past wrongs and hurts. Many of the worst kinds of suffering are not visible to the naked eye.

Jesus healed the man physically and gave him the gift of hearing and speech. Jesus also heals us if we allow him to. The first step to healing is to recognise that we are suffering and that we trust God to heal us. This may take some time and perhaps cause us to think that God is not listening to us. We may even miss the healing offered to us because we do not see or hear the signs being given to us.

The gift of hearing and speech should not be wasted, and we may need the Lord's healing touch if we are to put these gifts to good use. This miracle contained in the Gospel made its way into the rite of Baptism and is still contained within it today, even if it is not practised at every baptism. The minister touches the ears and mouth of the person being baptised and says, 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb



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‘speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.’

These are important words, and it underlines that the greatest tragedy is not necessarily to be born deaf and dumb like the man cured by Jesus, but rather to have ears and yet fail to hear and to have tongues and yet fail to speak. This week we should pray that we always listen to the word of God and always profess that word with our lips and in how we live our lives.

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.
- 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.



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Parish Working Parties: You still have time to volunteer for our working parties for the 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 put 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.

Mass Intentions: We have a few vacancies for Mass Intentions during the week. Clair returns to the office next week so you can call her, email, post into the Mass Intention post box or make the request via our website. Thank you.

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> .

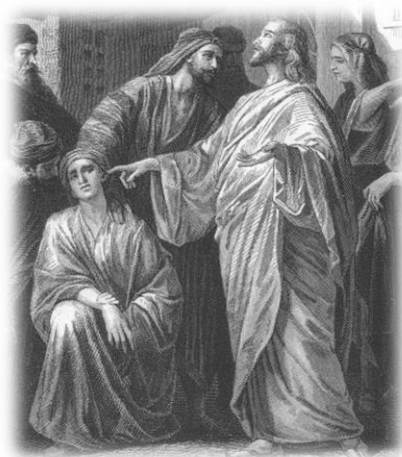
Cambridge Road Gate Access to Church: Please be aware that this path is currently undergoing essential maintenance, when weather permits, and the gate will be locked on weekdays for this purpose. A notice has been placed on the pedestrian gate entrances. The notices will be removed when the work is complete.

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.

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



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Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 4th 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 5th 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
Monday 6th September	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 7th September	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 8th September <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Feast.</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	John Whiting 1st Anniversary R.I.P. (K. Whiting)
Thursday 9th September	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 10th September	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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Year B		
Saturday 11th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The Comboni Missionaries
Sunday 12th 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>	Bill Blythe R.I.P. (H. Bennett) People of the Parish

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



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