

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 28th November 2021

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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Gospel: Luke 21:25-28

'Your liberation is near at hand'

Mass book (P. 82)

1st Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 24:4-5:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2nd Reading:

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 84)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is the 1st Sunday in Advent. Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives as we live them through His Church, its Sacraments (especially the Eucharist), the Word of God, the worshipping community, as we die, and finally, in His Second Coming. Our lectionary readings for this weekend illustrate this theme of waiting. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah waits and hopes for an ideal descendant of King David Who, as Messiah of God, will bring security, peace, and justice to God's people. Christians believe that Jeremiah's waiting and hoping to have been fulfilled in Jesus. Jeremiah's prophecy assures us that the Lord, our Justice will fulfil His promises, and, hence, we need not be afraid.

The Psalmist expresses the central idea of patient, vigilant, prayerful waiting for the Lord in today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25), praying, "Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your Truth and teach me for You are God, my Saviour." In the second reading, Paul urges the Thessalonians to continue and intensify the life of holiness and mutual love he has taught them as they wait for "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His holy ones."

Today we move to the year of Luke (Cycle C). The Gospel today is Luke's version of the Gospel that we read two weeks' ago from Mark. It concerns the end times and the second coming of Christ. The early Christians believed that the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple would be the precursor to the triumph return of Jesus. When Jerusalem fell in AD70 and Christ did not return, a crisis of faith emerged amongst the early Christians, with many turning away from their faith. This was the context for the time when Luke wrote his Gospel which is believed to have been about AD80.



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The message was a plea to the early Church members to remain faithful to Christ. Luke advised his readers on how they should wait and prepare for the return of the Lord. They should remain vigilant and dedicate themselves to prayer and service. The Gospel records the signs which would precede Jesus' Second Coming, but also includes Jesus' warning to be 'on guard against descending into debauchery and drunkenness', as well as praying always to be able to stand in confidence before the Son of Man. Advent is a time to contemplate Jesus' coming in the flesh as well as His Second coming. Advent is also a time when we should open ourselves to the Lord's coming into our lives. Advent allows us to repent of our sins and to improve our lives. Luke reminds us to trust in Jesus amid the tragedies that sometimes occur in our lives. It is then that we are encouraged to 'Stand up, raise your heads, because your salvation is near'.

Let us remember the words of Alexander Pope: 'What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?' Jesus must be reborn in our hearts and lives, during this season of Advent and every day of our lives, in our love, kindness, mercy, and forgiveness.

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

Private Prayer: The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Rosary, Exposition of the Sacrament & Benediction: The Friday evening sessions are now postponed over the winter months. A new date will be published as soon as it is known. Thank you.

Mass 2nd & 3rd December 2021: Please note that Mass this Thursday (2nd December) will be a Requiem Mass for Arturo Oliva Pulin. Eternal rest grant him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. Also Mass on Friday (3rd December) has been cancelled. Thank you.

Baptism Course: The next course will take place on Wednesday 15th December and one in the New Year on 12th January 2022, all at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org Thank you.

Sacrament of Marriage: People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Fr. Lee / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Visions Group: We would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday from the 15th November at 3:45 p.m.

- Zoom meeting ID: 822 2687 8791 +
- Passcode: visionst.

For a direct link visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel.

Inaugural lecture of the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics: You are warmly invited to the inaugural lecture of the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics this Thursday 2nd December at 6pm on zoom, in which Professor Jim Keenan SJ will explore how an ecclesial ethics of vulnerability can offer a pathway of renewal for our Church and enable us to become the different, attentive and vulnerable Church that God calls us to be in service of a fragile world emerging from Covid. Tickets are free and bookings can be made at



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<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/centre-for-ecclesial-ethics-inaugural-lecture-tickets-192356893647> - All are welcome and further details can be viewed at www.mbit.cam.ac.uk

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage: Led by Bishop Alan, the pilgrimage will take place from Sunday 24 – Friday 29 July 2022 in Lourdes. It will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes. Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director via email cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by calling 07813 710070.

APF Red Boxes: The first count of the Red boxes has taken place and £137 has been donated so far, Thank you! If you haven't brought in your box, it is not too late, however, could we ask you to bring it in as soon as possible please.



Christmas Cards & Advent Calendars: We have a lovely selection of Christmas cards only £3 for a pack of six cards and some lovely Advent calendars for £2.50. Our Repository is open to all whenever the church is open. Pop in and take a look.

Christmas Flower donations & volunteers: We shall be holding a collection over the next couple of weekends for our Christmas flowers. Should you wish to donate please put your donation into an envelope marked 'Christmas Flowers' and place into the baskets when leaving the church or through the Presbytery door. If you wish the church to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please write your name and address on the envelope and 'yes to Gift Aid'. You do not need to have completed a Gift Aid declaration; you only need to be paying tax on your income. We are also looking for any volunteers who would be available to make the arrangements for our Christmas celebrations. If you can help, please speak with Fr Lee, Deacon Des or contact the Parish office. Thank you.

Gift Aid Envelopes 2021/2022: We still have a number of uncollected Gift Aid envelopes for the current financial year; should you wish to have them, please contact Clair in the office and she will arrange for them to be collected or delivered to you. If you are still using envelopes from a previous financial year, please collect this year's envelopes; using current envelopes avoids unnecessary processing delays. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated; we cannot thank you enough. If you are a tax payer and are donating to the Parish without a Gift Aid declaration in place, we are unable to claim the extra 25% from the government. Should you have any questions about Gift Aid, or wish to become a contributor, please contact us via email:

Stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org or speak to Clair in the office.



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Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C		
Saturday 27th November	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Peter Bennett R.I.P. (Bennett & Dalzell Families)
Sunday 28th November	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 William Shevlane R.I.P (M. Michelson)
Monday 29th November	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Special Intentions for the Spencer Family (R. Spencer)
Tuesday 30th November <i>St Andrew</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mary Salici (O.Salici)
Wednesday 1st December	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the intentions of Derek Smith (V. Bonito)
Thursday 2nd December	Requiem Mass: 10:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Arturo Oliva Pulin R.I.P.
Friday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	No Mass	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C		
Saturday 4th December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Micheal Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 5th December	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 Rachel Barker R.I.P. (L.Barker)



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



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