

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 5th December 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 3:1-6

'All mankind shall see the salvation of God'

Mass book (P. 84)

1st Reading:

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 125:

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

2nd Reading:

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 87)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In our first reading today, the prophet Baruch introduces The LORD, the God of Israel, preparing the way for and leading the Babylonian exiles back to Jerusalem. The prophet announces the return of the whole human race to God. This inspires us this Advent to return to God from our own exile in sin.

In our second reading, Paul tells the Philippians to prepare themselves for the second coming of Christ by practicing Christian love and by leading pure and blameless lives.

As always, the second and third Sundays in Advent have John the Baptist as their focus, which reminds us that we need to listen to the message of the Baptist if we want to prepare ourselves properly for the coming of Jesus. In Luke's Gospel we are introduced to John as the herald of the Messiah during the leadership of Annas and Caiaphas. John appears offering a baptism of repentance. This baptism symbolised turning from the past and turning towards a new life. It was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins and required repentance, a need to turn in a different direction.

John called people to repent as a way of preparing their hearts and lives for the Lord's visit. He is calling us, too, to get ready for something so great that it fills our emptiness with expectation. A smooth road means nothing to God, but a repentant heart means a great deal. Hence, the truly important goal for us is to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord. By emphasizing the last line of the quotation "All flesh will see the salvation of God," Luke stresses the universal aspect of God's salvation. Today's Gospel began with a list of rulers who did not bring wholeness or salvation, Luke ends it with the expectation of a true Lord Who can bring these about.



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

We don't live in a perfect world, and we don't look to this world to see God's salvation. For salvation, we must look to Jesus — Jesus present in Scripture, Jesus present in the Sacraments, Jesus present as we come together in Jesus' Name, Jesus present in the lives of his followers. Perhaps if we began to see Jesus in each other and in ourselves, and started to treat one another (and ourselves), as we would treat Jesus, more of the world might come to see God's salvation and healing within ourselves and the world begin.

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

Christmas Masses: We are pleased to confirm our Christmas Mass times for 2021 as follows:

Friday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m.
NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
<i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i>	Mass: 4:00 p.m. – with Pop Up Nativity
<i>Christmas Mass During the Night</i>	Mass: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 25th December <i>Mass of the Dawn</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m.
<i>Mass of the Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m.
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - Year C	
Sunday 26th December	Mass: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m.
Monday 27th December – Friday 31st December No Masses	
MARY MOTHER OF GOD	
Saturday 1st January 2022	Mass: 12:00 p.m.
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – YEAR C	
Saturday 1st January 2022	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 2nd January 2022	Mass: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. Mass (EF) (Latin): 12:00 p.m.



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Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2022: Copies of this this year's directories are now available to purchase. Should you wish to purchase one please contact Clair. Ringbound copies are £4.00 and Paperback copies are £2.80. Thank you

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.

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.

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.

Synod Prayer Cards: The prayer cards mentioned in Bishop Alan's letter of last week can be located at the entrance of the church. Please help yourself.

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

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 Holy Souls Rachel Barker R.I.P. (L.Barker)
Monday 6th December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bill Spencer R.I.P. (R. Spencer)
Tuesday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Latin Mass (EF): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mary Salici (O.Salici)
Wednesday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls
Thursday 9th December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Margaret Sturges R.I.P. (B. Horton)
Friday 10th December	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C		
Saturday 11th December	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Micheal & Jim Cassidy R.I.P. (E. Cassidy)
Sunday 12th 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>	People of the Parish Ronnie Jackson Anniversary R.I.P. (The Jackson Family)



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



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