

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 12<sup>th</sup> 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 3:10-18**

*‘What must we do?’*

**Mass book (P. 87)**

**1st Reading:**

*Zephaniah 3:14-18*

**Psalms 12:2-6:**

*Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

**2nd Reading:**

*Philippians 4:4-7*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon: (P. 89)**

*Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the Priest and Deacon wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Saviour. We rejoice because a) we are celebrating the day of Christ's birth, b) we recognize Jesus' daily presence in our midst, and c) we wait for Christ's return in glory.

In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah says, "*Shout for joy, O Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel.*" Zephaniah made this prophetic proclamation at the height of the Jewish exile when things appeared hopeless and unbearable. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Is 12:6), the prophet Isaiah gives the same instruction: "*Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*" St. Paul echoes the same message of joy in the second reading, taken from his letter to the Philippians: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice... The Lord is in your midst... Fear not... be not discouraged... The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...*" Paul was imprisoned when he made this appeal for rejoicing!

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as a wholehearted commitment to God's Way lived out by doing His will. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms. According to the Baptist, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with those in need. John challenges people to develop generosity and a sense of fairness, and to use these to give others reason to rejoice. John's call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. *Repentance* means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. Filled with joyful



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expectation that the Messiah is coming near, the people ask John, “*What should we do?*” He tells them to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation.

For us, that transformation occurs when we recognize that Christ has already entered our lives at Baptism, and that His Presence is to be reflected in our living in the ways John suggests. In other words, John reminds us that membership in the Church, knowing the teaching of the Church and the Bible, being baptised, and going to Mass on Sundays, while important things to do, are not enough. We must care for others and share our blessings with others if we are to live out our Faith.

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:

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



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**Catholic Bishops of England & Wales - Honouring Sunday:** Alongside two previous statements on the importance of Sunday as our Holy Day '*Sunday, It is Our Day*', and '*The Day of the Lord*', the Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement about the importance of Honouring Sunday. Details of this and the other statements can be found on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>.

**Church Benches:** The benches are being placed back into the original positions that we had in church pre COVID this Tuesday (14<sup>th</sup> December) at 10:30 a.m. If you can assist with the moving of the benches or cleaning of the church on this day or one day next week, please could you speak with Fr Lee, Deacon Des or Clair. For those concerned about distancing in Church we will be putting extra chairs in Church for those who wish to continue to be distanced from others. Thank you.

**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.

**Mass 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021:** Please note that Mass on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December will not take place. Thank you.

**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 this Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and one in the New Year on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, all at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or by calling 07813 710070.

**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](mailto:Stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or speak to Clair in the office.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C</b>		
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Michael &amp; Jim Cassidy R.I.P.</b> (E. Cassidy)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December</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>Ronnie Jackson Anniversary R.I.P.</b> (The Jackson Family)
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Lucy</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Holy Souls</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Latin Mass (EF): <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Augusto R.I.P.</b> (O.Salici)
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Holy Souls</b>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Clarke &amp; Rooney Families</b> (K. Clarke)
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>O Sapientia</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Rose Clarke R.I.P.</b> <b>Christina Clarke R.I.P</b> (K. Clarke)
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C</b>		
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>O Adonai</i>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the Intentions of Rosemary O'Rourke</b> (J.O'Rourke)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Expectant Mothers</i> <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	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>Holy Souls</b>



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



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