

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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## Gospel: John 1:1-18

*'The Word was made flesh, and lived among us'*

**Mass book (P. 111)**

**1st Reading:**

*Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12*

**Psalms 147:12-15:**

*The Word was made flesh, and lived among us'*

**2nd Reading:**

*Ephesians 1:3-6*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon: (P. 113)**

*To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.*

## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Each of the Gospels begins with an account on Jesus' origins. Mark introduces Jesus to us as an adult, telling us that Jesus was a man from Nazareth whose advent fulfils the arrival of God's salvation as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. Matthew and Luke's narratives begin earlier still, recounting Jesus' very conception and birth in the prophecies of old and God's will to deliver humanity.

John, however, begins his account of Jesus, the word, going back to the beginning of time itself. Before anything else had been created, He was. Jesus, as the divine Logos, was not only with God in the beginning, but was God. John's prologue reveals to us that creation itself originated from his life-giving agency. This text is extremely important in shaping Christian conceptions of Jesus' divinity, the incarnation, and the Trinity.

John stresses that to see Jesus is to see the Father. John's opening introduces several themes that will dominate the narrative that follows. In addition to his exaltation of Jesus as the Divine Logos, four interrelated motifs – all speaking to Jesus' purpose as the word of God – are particularly prominent. Firstly, John stresses that "the world came into being through him". Jesus was integral to the formation of the earth and all its creatures. Secondly, John presents Jesus as the source of revelation and grace for humankind. He is "the true light which enlightens everyone".

Also included here is the world's rejection of Jesus: "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; Yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." Finally, John's prologue reveals that the Divine Word became incarnate among us and



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within humanity: “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” In Jesus, the barriers between the divine and human realms are breached to a degree never before realised.

Ultimately, the Divine Word becomes so enmeshed in the world that he willingly undertakes humiliation and death on a cross to enlighten all those who would receive him. From his “fullness we have received grace in return for grace.” The Word was the true light, that came into a world of darkness to light the way to salvation. Today, more than ever, we need this divine light in our lives to help us to see the path that leads to eternal joy.

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**

**COVID19 - Bishops' Conference Guidance:** Following the statement by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, further restrictions have been imposed to mitigate against viral transmission, especially in the light of the new Omicron variant. The following guidance has been issued by the Bishops of England and Wales:

- **Face Coverings** - The wearing of face covering is now mandatory in Places of Worship. However, there will be exemptions for those leading worship, public proclamation of scriptural readings or prayers, and those who are unable to wear face coverings and are exempt for medical reasons.
- **Singing** - The current Church guidance states that congregational singing should take place with face coverings in place and choirs and soloists may sing without such coverings. As the Church moves towards Christmas celebrations which often involves carol services and other singing events, it is strongly recommended that congregational singing within church buildings continues with the applied face coverings.
- **Practical Guidance for Churches** - With respect to the current situation with the Omicron variant it is important to ensure the following points are followed in our churches:
  - ◆ That people displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person.
  - ◆ That hand sanitiser is available to those attending the Church.
  - ◆ Face coverings must be worn by those attending public acts of worship unless there is a genuine exemption or the person is leading worship or participating in a role that requires the mask to be removed for a period of time.
  - ◆ That there is good ventilation and air throughput in the building; in this case, because of climatic conditions, it would be important to remind people to wrap up well in church.
  - ◆ There is now very strong evidence to support that the main mode of this variant's viral transmission is through aerosols, and that the risk from surface and touch transmission is very small indeed. As such, the strict regimes of church cleaning that were recommended at the beginning of the opening of churches for public worship are no longer necessary. General church cleaning is sufficient.
  - ◆ That people who are engaged in a form of pastoral ministry which involves ministry to the housebound, sick and vulnerable, should take regular lateral flow tests to ensure they are safe to do so. These are free from the NHS.



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**Thank you:** Both Deacon Des and I would like to say thank for all of the cards, gifts, love and generosity shown this Christmas. From our families to yours we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a blessed New year. Fr Lee.

**Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022:** Please note there will be no Masses this coming Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Masses will return to normal on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022. 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 reopen for private prayer this week. We are open 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 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 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>MARY MOTHER OF GOD</b>		
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b>	Mass: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Blessing for New Year 2022</b>  <b>Austin Gibbons R.I.P.</b> (M&T Rhead)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</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>  Mass: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Holy Souls</b>  <b>Departed members of the Barker &amp; Connor Families</b> (L. Barker)
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Margaret Barrett R.I.P.</b> <b>Stuart Gibby R.I.P.</b> (M. Jacobs)
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January</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>



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



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