

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – 9th January 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • www.sttheresastansted.org

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett freebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 814 349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 07748 464 101

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 816 889/07734 273 969

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16

‘While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened’

Mass book (P. 118)

1st Reading (P. 120):

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalms 103:1-2:

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are!

2nd Reading:

Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Fathers voice resounded: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him’
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: (P. 122)

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

This Week’s Good News

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season, celebrating the Self-revelation of God through Jesus, comes to an end with the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Christmas is the feast of God’s Self-revelation to the Jews, and Epiphany celebrates God’s Self-revelation to the Gentiles. At His Baptism in the Jordan, Christ reveals Himself to repentant sinners. The Baptism of the Lord Jesus is the great event celebrated by the Eastern churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. It is also an event described by all four Gospels, and it marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. The liturgical season of Christmas concludes this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, receive the “baptism of repentance” meant for sinners? Jesus’ baptism by John was the acceptance and the beginning of Jesus’ Messianic mission as God’s Suffering Servant. Jesus accepted being numbered among sinners, willingly submitting entirely to the Father’s will. Out of love, Jesus consented to the “baptism” of death for the remission of our sins. Many Fathers of the Church explain that Jesus received John’s baptism to be identified with the Chosen People, who, because of John’s preaching, for the first time in Jewish history became aware of their sins and of their need for repentance. The Jews had the traditional belief that only the Gentiles who embraced Jewish religion needed the baptism of repentance, for, as God’s chosen people, the Jewish race was holy. Jesus might have been waiting for this most opportune moment to begin public ministry. The Fathers of the Church point out that the words which the Voice of the Heavenly Father speaks are similar to Psalm 2:17, revealing Jesus’ identity (“*This is My beloved Son*” and to Isaiah 42:1 referring to the “suffering servant” (“*with whom I am well pleased*”), revealing Jesus’ mission of saving mankind by suffering and death.



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

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity. It reminds us of who we are and Whose we are. By Baptism we become sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism reminds us also of our mission: a) to experience the presence of God within us, to acknowledge our own dignity as God's children, and to appreciate the Divine Presence in others by honouring them, loving them and serving them in all humility; b) to live as the children of God in thought, word and action. c) to lead holy and transparent Christian lives and not to desecrate our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit and members of Jesus' Body), by impurity, injustice, intolerance, jealousy, or hatred; d) to accept both the good and the bad experiences of life as the gifts of a loving Heavenly Father for our growth in holiness; e) to grow daily in intimacy with God by personal and family prayers, by meditative reading of the Word of God, by participating in the Holy Mass, and by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

It is a day to thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism, to renew our Baptismal promises and to preach Christ's "Good News" by our transparent Christian lives of love, mercy, service, 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

COVID19 - Bishops' Conference Guidance: Following the statement by the Prime Minister on Wednesday 9th 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 a 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



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

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.

Epiphany Blessing: For anyone that was unable to attend the Mass on Thursday 6th January but wishes to take home the Epiphany Blessing and chalk please speak with Fr Lee or Deacon Des. We only have a limited number so they will be given out on a first come first served basis. Thank you.

White Flower Appeal 2022: The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend (15th and 16th January). At present the SPUC have three urgent needs:

1. They have mounted a judicial review in Northern Ireland, challenging the UK government's radical expansion of abortion against the will of the people and their devolved institutions.
2. Developing an extensive new range of educational resources which will bring the beautiful truth about human life to children and young people at every stage of their education.
3. More than ever, help those affected by abortion.

Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack. For more information please visit: www.spuc.org.uk/Home/About-SPUC

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2022: We have two paperback copies of this this year's directory available to purchase for £2.80 from the repository. Thank you

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

Baptism Course: The next two courses take place this Wednesday (12th January 2022) at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday 16th February 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 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.

Catholic Schools 6th Form Public Speaking Competition: Entries for the above competition are now open, where you can pit your public speaking skills against other 6th Form students from across North London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex by speaking for four minutes on a subject you are passionate about.

Many catholic schools in the area have already entered but if your School hasn't, speak to your Head of 6th Form who has the details. See also the poster on the Parish Notice Board

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.



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

Mass Times and Intentions

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C		
Saturday 8 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Margaret Barrett R.I.P. Stuart Gibby R.I.P. (M. Jacobs)
Sunday 9 th January	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 Marie & Gerry Keane R.I.P. (C.Gallagher)
Monday 10 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 11 th January	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Kyran's Health (O. Salici)
Wednesday 12 th January	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Alejandra Martinez R.I.P. (A.Zuniga-Daly)
Thursday 13 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 14 th January	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 15 th January	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 16 th January	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>	Margaret Barrett R.I.P. Stuart Gibby R.I.P. (M. Jacobs) People of the Parish



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



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