

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 16<sup>th</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 2:1-11

*'This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee'*

**Mass book (P. 127)**

**1st Reading:**

*Isaiah 62:1-5*

**Psalm 95:1-3:**

*Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.*

**2nd Reading:**

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon: (P. 129)**

*You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.*

## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, the small village of Cana in Galilee is the setting for Jesus' first miracle, and which John refers to as a 'sign.' This miracle is the first in John's series of seven signs by which Jesus manifested Divine power and glory during His public ministry.

This 'sign' is given during a wedding when we are told that at some point during the celebrations the wine ran short. This was a difficult situation for the young couple and may indicate that they came from poor families. Among the Jews of that time, wine was not only considered a staple food item, but was also frequently used in times of celebration. To run short of wine at a wedding feast was certainly a serious problem, particularly damaging to the reputation of the host and an ill omen for the newly married couple.

When Mary pointed out the problem to Jesus, the reply seems, on the surface, to be a bit sharp. This, however, is to misunderstand the passage. Although Jesus addressed his mother as "Woman" or "Dear Woman," the term was roughly equivalent to our word "lady" or "madam" and was not unnecessarily harsh. It was, in fact, a term of respect and is the same word Jesus used in addressing Mary from the cross, saying of John, "Woman, behold your Son." Besides, by calling her "woman," Our Lord is linking the Blessed Virgin Mary to Eve. Jesus' next words are also easily misunderstood. He asked Mary, "*What is it to Me. and to you?*" This implies no rudeness on Jesus' part. Probably, it means, "We are guests, and guests are not expected to supply the things needed at a feast." Jesus further protested, "*My hour has not yet come,*" The "hour" of Jesus includes the Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension taken as one great event. Despite Jesus' detachment from the problem, Mary instructs the waiters, "*Do whatever He tells you,*" Showing Faith that her Son would do what the newlyweds and their families really needed.



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The Church uses the account of this miracle to remind us that, by virtue of her position as the Mother of God and our Heavenly Mother, Mary's intercession for us with God has great power.

The love of God is manifested at its most powerful in the love between husband and wife, in sacramental marriage, that is, in a marriage in which Christ is the always-present Wedding Guest. As ministers of the marriage Sacrament, husbands, and wives, in their love for one another, mirror for all of us the great love of God in our midst. The fact that the *abundant wine* (120 gallons) provided by Christ was *of such superior quality* and taste also reveals the glory, satisfaction, sufficiency, and lavishness of the grace of Divine Life, He provides for sinners. Since it is God Who provides, we will lack nothing; however, to receive this gift from Him, we must be emptied, giving all, we have to Him. This is an anticipation of the "Wedding Supper of the Lamb," in Heaven where God will give us every good thing forever.

We need to obey the only command of Mary, "*Do whatever He tells you.*" This is the only recorded command of Mary in the New Testament, and it is a prerequisite for miracles in our families. The Bible tells us how to do the will of God and effect salvific changes in our daily lives. We need to learn to appreciate the miracles of God's providence in our lives. God, often as an uninvited guest in our families, works daily miracles in our lives, protecting us from physical and moral dangers, providing for our needs, inspiring us, and strengthening us with His Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus filled the empty water jars with wine, we need to fill the empty hearts around us with love. By the miracle of Cana, Jesus challenges us to enrich the empty lives of those around us with the new wine of love, mercy, concern, and care.

We need to appreciate the miracle of the Real Presence of the Lord on the altar. The same Jesus, who transformed water into wine at Cana, transforms our gifts of bread and wine into Jesus' own Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the appearances of consecrated bread and wine, in order to give us spiritual nourishment. If our families have lost the savour of mutual love, let us renew them at the altar with the invigorating power of the Holy Spirit.

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 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.



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- **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.

**White Flower Appeal 2022:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) is holding its annual appeal this weekend. 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](http://www.spuc.org.uk/Home/About-SPUC)

**Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2022:** Copies of this year's directory are 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:** Forthcoming courses take place on 16th February, 16th March and 6th April, all on a Wednesday 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.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C</b>		
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Michael Bambridge</b> (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Peace Day</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>Margaret Barrett R.I.P.</b> <b>Stuart Gibby R.I.P.</b> (M. Jacobs)  <b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> January <i>St Anthony</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January <i>The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Luigino R.I.P.</b> (O. Salici)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> January <i>St Agnes</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C</b>		
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	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)
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January <i>Sunday of the Word of God</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>



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



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