

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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

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## Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

*'They left everything and followed him.'*

### Mass book (P. 135)

#### 1st Reading:

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

#### Psalm 137:1-5:

*Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.*

#### 2nd Reading:

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!*

#### Communion Antiphon: (P. 138)

*Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.*

## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Last week we were made aware of our call to share in the prophetic ministry of Jesus. In our readings today we explore this further in considering vocation and discipleship. We are helped by the wonderful stories given to us of the calls of the Prophet Isaiah, and the disciples Peter and Paul. We are dealing with profound religious experiences that have shaped and determined our awareness of God's action in our lives.

Simon Peter, the fisherman, is the first to be called personally by Jesus in Luke's Gospel. His calling resembles Isaiah's commissioning in the First Reading: confronted with the holiness of the Lord, both Peter and Isaiah are overwhelmed by a sense of their own sinfulness and inadequacy. Yet each experiences the Lord's forgiveness and is sent to preach the good news of His mercy to the world. No one is "fit to be called an apostle," Paul recognises in today's second reading. But by "the grace of God," even a persecutor of the Church, as Paul once was, can be lifted up for the Lord's service as an apostle.

Simon put out into deep waters even though, as a professional fisherman, he knew it would be foolish to expect to catch anything. In humbling himself before the Lord's command, he was exalted, his nets filled to overflowing; later, as Paul tells us, he will become the first to see the risen Lord.

Isaiah's mystical experience in the temple can be seen to have little in common with the story of fishing on the Sea of Galilee, but they have remarkable parallels. In different sets of imagery, God reveals Himself: there is a human confrontation with the Divine, whether this is the LORD seated high on His throne, or Jesus teaching and fishing with the labourers at their nets. There is the perception of wonder, be



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it at the heavenly majesty of holiness, or the overwhelming generosity and insight of Jesus. In both cases it leads to a sense of unworthiness: “What a wretched state I am in”, and “Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man”. Yet the Lord is here with you, but more than that, he *wants* you. It is not so much that either man is sinful personally, but each is deeply aware of the limitations and wretchedness of humanity, of the imperfect human condition.

Confrontation with the All-Holy should lead to alienation and a sense of futility, but to our utter surprise it does quite the opposite; holiness cleanses, and, for the open heart which recognises and accepts forgiveness, there is a change, invitation, and call to purification. Isaiah and the disciples can now hear the question: “whom shall I send?” and grasp the intention: “I will make you fishers of men.” There is a new impression of hope, strength, and purpose: “here I am, send me.” “They left everything and followed him.”

The stories of great sinners who were called, like St Paul, and St Augustine, illustrate this image, and gives us hope too. If men like these can be called by God, and be used to fulfil his divine plan, then so can we. However far we have travelled from God, the distance back to Him is very small indeed, and we need to come back so that we can be part of his divine plan for the world.

Fr Lee

### **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:** The guidance below has been issued by the Bishops of England and Wales following the removal of restrictions by HM Government on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

- Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building.
- There is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them.
- Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation, balancing this against the need for church heating, especially at this time.
- It is clear from scientific evidence that transmission from surfaces (touch transmission) is now minimal and so the use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed with immediate effect.
- Whilst it is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, there is no need for readers (or other ministers) to sanitise their hands before reading or performing other ministries in the church. All ministers of Holy Communion (clergy and lay people) should still sanitise their hands for the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Holy water stoups may be refilled but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly (at a minimum of once a week). Usual forms of church cleaning are sufficient.
- Regarding the liturgical action, there should be a return to the normal mode of celebrating Mass respecting the integrity of the Rite. This would include the reintroduction of the Prayer of the Faithful (where this has not been reinstated already), the Sign of Peace may be offered again if felt appropriate, and Holy Communion should be distributed at the usual place and in the usual mode (i.e. with the faithful approaching the minister in an orderly procession). For the time being, Holy Communion must continue to be given under one kind only (the Sacred Host) and for



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concelebrations of clergy, intinction of the Precious Blood with the Sacred Host should continue to be used.

- Congregational singing may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.

**Our Synodal Journey Together:** As part of the preparation for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023, Pope Francis has asked all people worldwide to input into the process. “Whilst what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not the traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The Synod should develop how our teaching can be lived and applied in the changing contexts of our time”.

The Diocese of Brentwood has launched its Synodal Pathway. We, as a parish, are now undergoing a time for listening and to share our thoughts. At each weekend Mass during February, we will include the Synodal prayer in our Bidding Prayers. During February all groups and individuals are asked to reflect on our teaching and record our thoughts for the future of the Church. Maybe even set up your own house group for a discussion.

After reflecting on the Synodal prayer please think about the Catholic Church that you would like to see. Your thoughts are wanted so much, we have three methods to collect them. Firstly, we will be holding a meeting after each Mass on the weekend 26/27th February. Secondly, we will have a computer link to the Diocesan Survey for individuals to submit their thoughts and lastly, we will have printed copies of the same survey for those that would prefer not to use computers. Please use any (or all) of the methods. The Diocese will collect our input and prepare a report in April which will go first Country wide. Then continental and finally as an input to the Synod in October 2023.

We will be distributing more information at subsequent Masses or in the meantime please check out the Diocesan information at <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/synod-2021-2023/our-journey-together-a-synodal-church/> or a short Youtube video on what & why at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzx5U66KlqY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzx5U66KlqY)

**Volunteering:** As we are now able to return to normal, we would welcome anyone that wishes to continue or start volunteering as a greeter, server, reader, collector or counter to make themselves known to Fr Lee or Deacon Des, Alternatively you can email the parish office at [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org) . Thank you.

**Weekday Masses:** Please note there will be no Masses during the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022; weekend Masses will continue as normal. Weekday Masses will resume on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

**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. Please note it will not be open on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**Baptism Course:** Forthcoming courses take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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)

**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>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C</b>		
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	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 6 <sup>th</sup> February <i>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</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>  Mass: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Efren Suinan Sr R.I.P.</b> (N. Collier)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February <i>St John of Matha</i>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Joe Bonavia R.I.P.</b> (L&N Handzel-Bonava)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February <i>St Scholastica</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i> <i>World Day for the Sick</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Fr John Garrett R.I.P</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary</b> (R.Spencer)
<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C</b>		
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	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 13 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Racial Justice 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>People of the Parish</b>  <b>Roman Babula R.I.P</b> (E.Moser)



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



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