

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 13th February 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

'How happy are you who are poor. Alas for you who are rich.'

Mass book (P. 139)

1st Reading:

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalm 1:1-4, 6:

Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 141)

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness that we are all children of a loving Heavenly Father and that we will be happy only when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need, and when we work to uplift them, thus declaring our "*option for the poor,*" as Jesus did. Contrary to the popular belief, wealth, health, power, and influence are not the sources of true happiness. The word "beatitude" means "blessedness" in a double sense: both enjoying God's favour and enjoying true or supreme happiness.

In the first reading, Jeremiah tells us that true happiness consists in our placing our trust in God and in putting our trust in His promises. The Responsorial Psalm finds beatitude in keeping God's Law. In the second reading St. Paul warns us that true beatitude is obtainable only in Heaven, and that Christ's Resurrection gives us our assurance of reaching Heaven for an everlasting life of happiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. "*Blessed are those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted and denounced,*" because in poverty, we recognize our dependence on God; in hunger, God's providence; in sorrow for sins, reconciliation with God; and in persecution, the true joy of standing for the Faith with heroic convictions. What makes one blessed is not simply poverty or hunger or sadness or suffering for the Faith but living these in the context of one's commitment to Jesus and his spirit of sharing. Beatitudes consist in humble selflessness and compassionate, generous sharing of our blessings with the needy. The beatitudes must be understood as eschatological statements which see and evaluate the present in terms of the future glory and everlasting happiness.

Today's Gospel reading clearly outlines the reality of following Jesus as being completely at odds with what society values as important. Jesus brought a message of hope to those who were not valued by the rest



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of society. He told them that their lives had meaning and that they were blessed and loved. We have always had the poor and we always will. It would be wonderful to believe that one day poverty can be eradicated, but the reality is that today there are millions who go hungry every day, who live in substandard housing or are homeless, and who are denied the basic human right of education.

Jesus spoke out against injustice and inequality. It's on every page in the Gospels. Jesus challenged the authorities of his day and spoke of the way to true happiness. His message was too much, and it led to His crucifixion and death, and the triumph of the Resurrection. This is the essence of our faith.

Some may say that if the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and the hated are all blessed, then why should anyone attempt to help them improve their lot? The answer is that there is a difference between choosing poverty and being plunged into it without one's choice, due to an unjust socio-political situation. There are a few, only a few, saints, like Francis of Assisi and Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) who freely chose the sufferings and hardships that poverty brings. That is not what the Beatitude suggests, nor what Jesus asks of most of us. It is true that we are unable to eradicate poverty from the face of the earth. But we can help, either directly or by working with others for our poor brothers and sisters, to improve their living conditions and education, so that they may choose to free themselves from the poverty thrust upon them by greedy exploiters. Luke's account offers the rich the Good News that their salvation lies in their concern for the poor and in the good stewardship of sharing their goods with others in need. But the rich among us remain cursed if they remain unwilling to share their surplus with the needy. In short, in the Beatitudes, Jesus envisions a society where the resources which belong to all are divided among all according to need, making everyone blessed and happy.

The challenge of the beatitudes is: "Are you going to be happy in the world's way or in Christ's way?" If we choose the world's way, we are seeking our blessings in the wrong place.

Deacon Des

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 27th 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: In October 2023 the bishops of the Church will come together in Synod. The path toward this Synod, 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission', began in October 2021, in a worldwide invitation to all the faithful. Pope Francis has invited the entire Church to 'reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission', the path of synodality. Our Holy Father has affirmed that: Synodal Church is a Church which listens. The faithful People, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other; and all listening to the Holy Spirit.

The Pope said: "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 Bishops have asked us to reflect on a number of spiritual promptings *Emmaus walk; Blind Bartimaeus; Joyful Mysteries* and *Peter and Cornelius*. After all Masses on 26/27th Feb there will be a meeting to reflect on the event featuring Blind Bartimaeus. We will then use this reflection to consider what we would like to contribute to the Synod. This and the other reflections are available on the Diocesan Web site: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/synod-2021-2023/our-journey-together-resources/>

If you would like to submit your thoughts either as an individual or as a family group you can follow the links above for all these reflections.

If you would rather complete your thoughts on paper, we will have printed copies available next weekend 19/20th Feb to be returned to the Church the following week.

We hope many of you will be able to join us in the Parish Centre after your preferred Mass over the weekend of 26/27th February.

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 . Thank you.

Weekday Masses: Please note there will be no Masses this week (14th - 18th February 2022); weekend Masses will continue as normal. Weekday Masses will resume on 21st February 2022.

Private Prayer: The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday and Wednesday only this week from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Baptism Course: Forthcoming courses take place on 23rd 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

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.

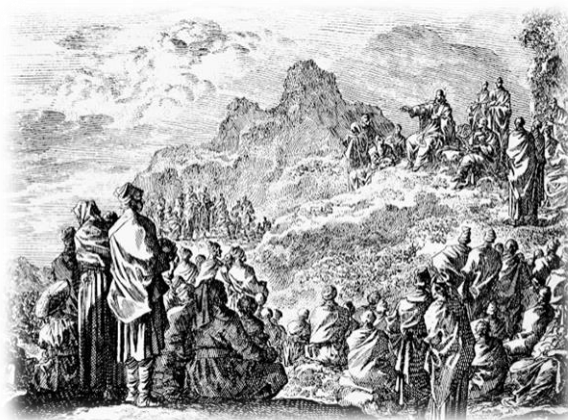
For a direct link visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel.



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Mass Times and Intentions

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 12 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 13 th February <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	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 Roman Babula R.I.P (E.Moser)
Monday 14 th February <i>St Cyril & Methodius</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 15 th February	No Mass	
Wednesday 16 th February	No Mass	
Thursday 17 th February	No Mass	
Friday 18 th February	No Mass	
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 19 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Patrick Joseph Burke R.I.P. (M&T Rhead)
Sunday 20 th February	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



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



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