

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20th 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 6:27-38

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.'

Mass book (P. 141)

1st Reading:

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9

Psalm 102:1-4:

The Lord is compassion and love.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 144)

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Scripture readings challenge us to make three types of correct choices in life. First, we are advised to choose the love in the "golden rule" instead of selfishness and insensitivity to the feelings and needs of others. Second, we need to choose unconditional, agape love instead of jealousy and hatred in our relationships with others. Third, we must choose graceful forgiveness instead of harbouring revenge and planning retaliation.

The first reading shows us how David made the right choice, respecting God's anointed king by forgiving his offenses, while Saul continued to make the wrong choices, perpetuating his own misery in seeking his revenge. In the Responsorial Psalm, Ps 103, the Psalmist reminds us of the mercy of God and His compassion which we should practice in our choices. In the second reading, St. Paul tells us how the "First Adam" made a wrong choice of disobedience, bringing death into the world, whereas Jesus, the "Second Adam," made the right choice of fulfilling his Father's saving plan for mankind by accepting acute suffering and heinous death.

Today's Gospel gives us Jesus' revolutionary moral teaching about correct choices in our human relationships, based on the necessity of our following the "Golden Rule" and our obligation to behave like the children of a loving, forgiving, merciful, and compassionate Heavenly Father. Our relationships in our communities become truly Christian when we follow the Golden Rule, "*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*" Jesus amplifies the golden rule by giving additional commands for us to follow as God's children, by explaining Christian love: "*Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you.*" Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful and compassionate to everyone as God our Father is loving, merciful, and compassionate. He concludes by instructing us to stop judging others and start forgiving all who offend us.



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

We need to practice the Golden Rule: The Golden Rule asks us to do to others what we would like them to do to us. If we obey, loving others and expressing that love by loving words and deeds, we will start receiving the same love from others in higher intensity. Further, if we want others to forgive our offenses, our words of criticism, and our thoughtless judgments against them, then we should start forgiving their offenses against us and start appreciating their good qualities while encouraging them and supporting them in their needs.

We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the “Our Father”, asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. Our challenge is to overcome our natural inclination to hate family members, co-workers, neighbours and all who offend us. To meet that challenge, we need to ask God for the strength to forgive each other. We must forgive because only forgiveness truly heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others. Let us start forgiving right now by curbing the sharp tongue of criticism, suppressing the revenge instinct, and patiently bearing the irritating behaviour of a neighbour.

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: 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 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.



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Our Synodal Journey Together: Please join us after any Mass next weekend - 26/27th Feb – in the Parish Centre.

After all Masses on 26/27th Feb we will meet in the Parish Centre 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. We will cover

- Brief introduction to what and why this is happening
- Clarification of the Holy Father's request
- Reading of the reflection followed by recording of the thoughts we generate

Our input will then go to our Bishop in Brentwood Diocese and ultimately to the Synod of Bishops in Rome next year. If you can't join us next week, after Mass this week we will be handing out details of how you can access the reflection yourselves and input your thoughts directly. If you don't have access to a computer or smart phone, just ask one of the helpers handing out details at Mass this week.

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.

CAFOD's Walk Against Hunger Lent Challenge: There are 200 Million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders.

Do 5k a day, your way for 40 days, and you'll conquer your 200k target in time for Easter - and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To take part, go to www.Cafod.org.uk/walk.

Weekday Masses: Weekday Masses resume tomorrow (Monday 21st 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.

Baptism Course: The next course takes place this Wednesday (23rd February). Forthcoming dates are the 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.



Mass Times and Intentions

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
Monday 21 st February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 22 nd February <i>The Chair of St Peter</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 23 rd February <i>St Polycarp</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 24 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 25 th February	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Danuta Kowalska R.I.P. (E. Moser)
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 26 th February	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	David Matthews R.I.P. (M&T Rhead)
Sunday 27 th February <i>Day for the Unemployed</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 Deceased members of the Spencer & Grace Families (R.Spencer)



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



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