

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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## Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

*'Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.'*

### Mass book (P. 153)

#### 1st Reading:

*Deuteronomy 26:4-10*

#### Psalm 90:1-2:

*Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.*

#### 2nd Reading:

*Romans 10:8-13*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

#### Communion Antiphon: (P. 156)

*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*

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## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Lent begins with a reflection on the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. The Church assigns temptation stories to the beginning of Lent because temptations come to everybody, not only to Jesus, and we seem almost genetically programmed to yield to them. The first reading describes the ancient Jewish ritual of presenting the first fruits and gifts to God during the harvest festival to thank Him for liberating His people from Egypt and for strengthening them during the years of their trials and temptations in the desert.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 91), points to Satan's third temptation of Jesus in the desert as recorded in Luke's Gospel. In the second reading, St. Paul warns the early Christians converted from Judaism not to yield to their constant temptation to return to the observances of the Mosaic Laws. He reminds them that they will be saved only by acknowledging the risen Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Bible scholars think that the graphic temptations of Jesus described by Matthew and Luke in their Gospels are the pictorial and dramatic representations of the inner struggle against a temptation that Jesus experienced throughout his public life. The devil was trying to prevent Jesus from accomplishing his mission of saving mankind from the bondage of sin, mainly through a temptation to become the political Messiah of Jewish expectations, and to use his Divine power first for his own convenience and then to avoid suffering and death.

The phrase "forty days" was the Hebrew way of expressing a long period of time. We find it used in the recounting of various incidents in Jewish history: a) forty days of rain in Noah's time (Gn 7:1-23); b) forty days which Moses spent on the mountain with God (Ex 34:28); c) forty days during which the prophet Elijah travelled in the wilderness (II Kgs 19:8). *The wilderness* was probably a desert in Judea, perhaps the



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great deserts of Horeb or Sinai, where the children of Israel were tried for forty years, and where Moses, and later Elijah fasted forty days.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the huge fifteen-by-thirty-five-mile desert between the mountain of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea so that Jesus could prepare by prayer, fasting and penance for the public ministry which he was about to commence.

The opposition, hostility, and rejection which Jesus experienced were constant temptations for him to use His power as God's Son to overcome evil. The temptation story depicts Jesus as obedient to his Father's will, refusing to be seduced into using his Divine power or authority wrongly. Each of the three temptations, according to the Fathers of the Church, represents an area in which humans regularly fail: the lust of the flesh (stones to bread), the lust of the eye and the heart (ruling over all kingdoms), and the pride of life (a spectacular leap from the Temple, testing the power of God and His promise to save Him). In other words, the three temptations of Jesus are the three essential weapons that the devil has in his arsenal to destroy humanity: The first is of appetite (pleasure/materialism) – to change stones into bread; the second is of arrogance (pride/boasting) – to worship the devil who can give power and wealth; and the third is of ambition (power/fame) – to jump from the top of the Temple.

Jesus overcame these temptations through the knowledge of his identity, his purpose, and God's plan for human salvation. Satan will tempt each of us to doubt God's love, providence, and power. Here we are taught to follow Jesus' example and respond to temptation as he did (CCC #2119). Let us also remember that we are not tempted because we are evil; we are tempted because we are human.

During our forty days in the wilderness during Lent, let us pray for the strength to resist the temptations we face.

Deacon Des

## Parish News

**Stations of the Cross:** This is an ancient and beautiful devotion, loved by generations of Christians. Stations will take place each Wednesday at 12:00 noon, and Friday at 7:00pm in Lent. We follow Our Lord in the Way of the Cross and are reminded of the immense love He showed for us. Deacon Des will lead us on Friday evenings on the Way of the Cross followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr Lee will lead us in a short Stations of the Cross before the Wednesday Mass. Do please try to come to Stations if you possibly can.

**Our Synodal Journey Together:** Many thanks for your prayers and input to our synodal process. Who knows how many of our thoughts will find their way to the Synod in Rome in 2023 but we have shared the journey.

At the sessions after the Masses last week, we reflected on the Gospel story of Blind Bartimaeus. Two groups of our Parish, the Wednesday Club and the Visions Group, used The Joyful Mysteries and the Emmaus Walk respectively. In all there were 53 responses collated and several people said they would respond directly to the Diocese.

Thanks to all.



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**CAFOD Family Fast Day, Lent Appeal:** Every child should grow big and strong. Family Fast Day is **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world, like Amie in Sierra Leone, with expert training in growing and making healthy food.

Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate in church by using the enclosed **CAFOD** envelope or by visiting the **CAFOD** website ([Cafod.org.uk/lent](http://Cafod.org.uk/lent))



**Crib Donation in aid of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:** A big thank you to everyone that donated to the Crib at Christmas. We are pleased to confirm a total of £150.70 was received and passed onto the BCCS. They have passed on their thanks and assured the donation will help them continue their work with children, young people and their families who need their specialist services.

**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:** Forthcoming dates are the 16th March, 6th April, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> June and 24<sup>th</sup> July; 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:** This Visions Group would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday at 3:45 p.m. in the Parish Centre from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. All are welcome. For a direct link visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel.

**Welcome to our Parish:** We would like to take this opportunity to welcome new Parishioners to our Parish. Anyone who has not yet contacted us about registration to the Parish please do so via email to [stansted@diocesesofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@diocesesofbrentwood.org) or contact Clair via the Parish Office numbers above.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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)
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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>Steffen Junghans</b> (L. Barker)
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Paul Braeckman R.I.P.</b> (The Braeckman Family)
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Bernadette Bevans</b> (L. Barker)
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Stations of the Cross: <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>12:30 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>1:15 p.m.</b>	
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Lent Fast Day</i>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Stations of the Cross Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: <b>7:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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>Patricia Hughes R.I.P</b> (W. Dodd)  <b>John &amp; Catherine McArthur</b> <b>60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary</b> (J. McArthur)

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



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