

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – 13th March 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Matthew 17-5

'As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed.'

Mass book (P. 156)

1st Reading:

Genesis 15:5-12

Psalm 26:1:

The Lord is my light and my help.

2nd Reading:

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O'Christ!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 159)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The first reading describes the transformation of Abram, a pagan patriarch, into a believer in the one God (Who would later "transform" Abram's name to Abraham), and the first covenant of God with Abraham's family as a reward for Abraham's Faith and obedience to God. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 27) declares that Faith, singing, "I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living." In the second reading, St. Paul argues that it is not observance of the Mosaic Law and circumcision that transforms people into Christians, and hence, that Gentiles need not become Jews to become Christians. St. Paul urges us to stand firm in our Faith and to live a life of discipleship with Jesus now, so that we may share in a glorious future later.

In the Transfiguration account in today's Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus' Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult his Heavenly Father to ascertain His plan for His Son's suffering, death, and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make Jesus' chosen disciples aware of his Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial. On the mountain, Jesus is identified by the Heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the Transfiguration experience is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of Who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus' Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

The Holy Spirit, through the Church, invites us to reflect on Christ's humanity by presenting the temptations of Christ on the first Sunday of Lent, But, on the second Sunday, by presenting the Transfiguration scene, the Church invites us to reflect on Christ's Divinity. The Transfiguration of Our Lord, like Christmas, is a



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Christological Feast. In the Incarnation, the Divine enters the human condition. In the Transfiguration, the human shares in Divine glory. The Transfiguration of Our Lord on this Second Sunday in Lent gives those at worship a glimpse of the coming future glory of Christ on Easter. But it also reminds us that the only way to Easter is through the cross. In both the Transfiguration and the Gethsemane experiences, it is clear that the events are pointing to the Cross ahead, the way of suffering. Is it possible that we “miss” mountaintop experiences because we are not open to accepting the way of the cross that might be in our present or future? Jesus taught us to pray to our Father in heaven, “Not my will but thine be done.” As with Abraham and Jesus, prayerful listening is our own ‘mountain’ into the divine presence. Jesus always prays before the decisive moments and events in his life and mission, as well as before decisive moments involving his disciples. Can we imitate his trusting and humble commitment to his father’s will?

In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transfiguration in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: “This is My beloved Son.” Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord, that through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses we may grow closer to him in his suffering and may share in the carrying of his cross so that we may finally share the glory of his Transfiguration.

Deacon Des

Parish News

Ukraine Appeal Weekend 19th -20th March 2022: You will have all seen the distressing pictures being televised of the people displaced by the conflict in Ukraine and the growing humanitarian crisis.

CAFOD is part of one of the largest aid networks in the world, Caritas Internationalis, who along with other humanitarian organisations, are already helping people affected by this conflict. Due to their global reach and local presence, they are there when an emergency hits. Ukrainian and neighbouring Caritas local aid workers and volunteers are part of the communities they work with and so understand people’s immediate needs. They are on the frontline of the response. Schools, hospitals and water systems must be protected from any armed violence so that practical help can be delivered without delay to people across the Ukraine.

To support this work, the Parish will be holding a special collection on the 19th and 20th March, that will be sent onto CAFOD to support the Caritas Internationalis work. Further information can be found via the following link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Ukraine-Humanitarian-Appeal>

Should you wish to ‘Gift Aid’ your donation please be sure to mark it on the envelope, along with your name and address. If you are unable to make a donation this weekend, or you prefer to donate electronically, please feel free to do so via the Parish Current Account. Could we ask that you identify your donation as specific to the Ukraine Appeal so that we can pass the monies onto the charity. We shall also be passing on a donation from the Parish’s Bonus Ball competition.

Our hope is to raise around £2500- £3000. Please give generously and thank you for your support.

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.



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Our Synodal Journey Together: Copies of the submission from this parish to the Diocese are available in the church foyer. Should you wish for an email copy please contact Clair in the office who can arrange this for you.

CAFOD Family Fast Day, Lent Appeal: Every child should grow big and strong. Family Fast Day took place on **Friday 11th March**, when we were asked to 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. Should you still wish to donate you can do so by visiting the **CAFOD** website (Cafod.org.uk/lent)

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 this Wednesday (16th March), 6th April, 11th May, 15th June and 24th July; 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: This Visions Group would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel for details.



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Mass Times and Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C		
Saturday 12th March	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th March	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>	Patricia Hughes R.I.P (W.Dodd) John & Catherine McArthur 60th Wedding Anniversary (J. McArthur)
Monday 14th March	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 15th March	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Nora Connor R.I.P (L. Barker)
Wednesday 16th March	Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 1:15 p.m.	Betty Kelliher R.I.P (B. Quinn)
Thursday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 18th March	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Stations of the Cross Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction: 7:00 p.m.	
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C		
Saturday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Bambridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 20th March	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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