

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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## Gospel: John 8:1-11

*'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her'*

### Mass book (P. 176)

#### 1st Reading:

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

#### Psalm 125:

*What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad*

#### 2nd Reading:

*Philippians 3:8-14*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!*

#### Communion Antiphon: (P. 179)

*Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.*

## This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The central theme of all three readings today is a merciful God's steadfast love. The readings remind us that we should not be self-righteous and condemn the lives of others when God is calling them tenderly to conversion. Reminding us of God's readiness to forgive sin, give the sinner a second chance, bind up broken lives, and restore people to His friendship, today's readings challenge us to show the same mercy to the sinners around us and to live as forgiven people, actively seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

Explaining how a merciful God forgives the sins of His chosen people and leads them back from the Babylonian exile, the first reading reminds us that we too are forgiven, and we are saved from our own sinfulness. In the second reading, Paul presents himself as a forgiven sinner who has been completely transformed by his Faith in Christ Jesus. His life is an example of the Gospel exhortation, "Sin no more." Paul loves Christ so much he wants to share in His sufferings and even in His death so that he may share Christ's Resurrection.

The sinful woman's story of sin committed, and sin forgiven in today's Gospel, shows the inexhaustible mercy and compassion Jesus offers to repentant sinners. In addition, by making sinlessness the condition for throwing the first stone, Jesus forces the accusers to assess their own souls and to leave. Thus, He grants justice to the accusers and mercy to the sinful woman. In our own lives, we bear witness to the Justice of God by confessing our sinfulness and resolving to avoid sin, and we bear witness to God's Mercy by accepting the forgiveness of our sins and promising to forgive those who have offended us. We need to become forgiving people, ready for reconciliation: Jesus has shown inexhaustible mercy and compassion to sinners by dying for our sins. But we are often self-righteous, like the Pharisees, and ready to spread scandal about others with a bit of spicy gossip. We are judgmental about the unmarried mother,



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the alcoholic, the drug addict, or the shoplifter, ignoring Jesus' command: "*Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.*" Let us learn to acknowledge our sins, ask God's forgiveness every day and extend the same forgiveness to our erring brothers and sisters. We need to learn to hate the sin but love the sinners, showing them Jesus' compassion and working with the Holy Spirit to make our own lives exemplary so that we can help lead them to Jesus' ways.

Deacon Des

## Parish News

**A Lenten Day of Recollection for Women:** Deacon Des has contacts within the Dominican Religious Sisters Community in Cambridge who are offering a day retreat for women. If anyone is interested, then please feel free to attend on the day. The session takes place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at St. Catherine's Convent, Huntingdon Rd, Cambridge, CB3 0DH. It starts at 10.00 a.m. and ends with Vespers at 4.30 p.m. A donation of £10 would be greatly received. For further information please contact Sr. Angela Mary at [angelaleydon@btinternet.com](mailto:angelaleydon@btinternet.com) or by mobile: 07968 091 751. Thank you.

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2022:** Please note there will be no Mass on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you.

**Transition to normal Church from COVID:** As part of the continuing transition back to normal Church, the passing of the baskets for the Offertory collection will recommence from the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April, the start of the new financial year.

We urgently need your help! Volunteers are required to count the weekly collections, in the past a rota has been pulled together in such that you would be called once every 4 to 5 weeks to count the money after the last Mass on a Sunday, usually taking around an hour.

The collections are counted by two people, and you will be placed with an experienced volunteer who will provide you with full guidance on the process.

Please contact Clair Rava in the Parish Office should you wish to volunteer.

**Envelopes for Gift Aid donations:** Thank you to those that have collected envelopes for the tax year about to start. For those of you that have not yet collected them, please check for your envelope in the church foyer after Mass.

If you pay tax and would like any donations you make to our Parish to be Gift Aided, please email Angelo at [stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org) for details.

If you are a Gift Aid donor and your circumstances have changed such that you no longer wish to donate via the Gift Aid scheme, please let us know using the same email account (above) so that we can reallocate your envelope.

During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.

**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 (6<sup>th</sup> 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 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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**Liturgical Programme Holy Week:** Please note our Masses for Holy Week and Easter as follows:

### **PALM SUNDAY**

**Saturday 9th April**

- ◆ Confession: 17:15
- ◆ Mass: 18:00 - Blessing of Palms, Procession & Mass (**Mass starts in the Parish Centre**)

**Sunday 10th April**

- ◆ Mass: 08:30 - Blessing of Palms, Procession & Mass (**Mass starts in the Parish Centre**)
- ◆ Mass: 10:00 - Blessing of Palms, Procession & Mass (**Mass starts in the Parish Centre**)

### **FIG MONDAY**

**Monday 11th April**

- ◆ Confession: 09:00
- ◆ Mass: 09:30

### **TEMPLE TUESDAY**

**Tuesday 12th April**

- ◆ Confession: 19:15
- ◆ Mass: 20:00

### **SPY WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday 13th April**

- ◆ Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral: 11:00

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**Thursday 14th April**

- ◆ Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 09:30
- ◆ Confession: 19:15
- ◆ Mass: 20:00 - Washing of feet, Watch of Prayer at the Altar of Repose until Midnight

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

**Friday 15th April**

- ◆ Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 09:30
- ◆ Stations of the Cross: 10:30 - for children & Families, followed by Hot Cross Buns
- ◆ Liturgy of The Lords Passion: 15:00
- ◆ Stations of the Cross – Maria Desolata: 18:00

### **HOLY SATURDAY**

**Saturday 16th April**

- ◆ Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 09:30
- ◆ Easter Vigil Mass: 20:00 (**Liturgy starts outside**)

### **EASTER DAY**

**Sunday 17th April**

*The Lord is risen, Alleluia!*

- ◆ Mass: 08:30
- ◆ Mass: 10:00



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## Mass Times and Intentions

<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Derek Smith R.I.P.</b> (V. Bonito & Family)
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</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>Jeanne &amp; David Bambridge</b> <b>60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary</b> (J. Bambridge)  <b>Gabriel Barker</b> (L.Barker)
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Confessions: <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Mass: <b>9:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Confessions: <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>8:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>My God Children &amp; their families</b> (O. Salici)
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April</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 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	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>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR C</b>		
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April</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>People of the Parish</b>

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



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