

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 1st May 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: John 21:1-19

'Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish'

Mass book (P. 265)

1st Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Psalm 29-2:

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

2nd Reading:

Apocalypse 5:11-14

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 268)

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel narrative shows us the rehabilitation of Peter, who denied Jesus three times in the courtyard of Caiaphas, repented, and then received Primacy in the Church from Jesus. The Gospel also shows us God in search of man, even when man tries to evade Him.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit transformed Peter, whom Jesus had appointed head of his Church, from a man fearful of powerful men into a brave witness to the Resurrection. Peter stands before the Jewish Supreme Court – the Sanhedrin — boldly announcing that he and the others must obey God rather than men. The second reading, taken from Revelation (the Apocalypse), presents John's vision of the Risen Lord as the glorified "Lamb of God," enthroned in Heaven. The whole of Revelation is an expression of Christian hope in the Risen Lord. Today's Gospel tells the post-Resurrection story of our merciful Saviour Who goes in search of His band of disappointed and dejected disciples. The incident proves that Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances were not mere hallucinations. In the first part of today's Gospel, the risen Jesus appears to His disciples and gives them a symbol of their mission in a miraculous catch of fish followed by a grilled fish breakfast prepared by Jesus himself. The second part is a dialogue between Jesus and Simon where Simon is asked three times whether he loves Jesus, and he answers that he does, as if in reparation for his triple denial of Jesus. The two metaphors used in the story, namely fishing and shepherding, are the duties of the Church in her missionary work. Peter, as a forgiven sinner, is chosen for the quality of his love to serve as leader in a community of brothers and sisters. As his primary mission, Peter is given the care of the vulnerable lambs and sheep, and he is told that fidelity to this mission will lead him to martyrdom.

We need to open our eyes, ears, and hearts wide to see, hear, and experience the Risen Lord coming into our lives in various forms, circumstances, and events. The Risen Lord blesses us with success and achievements. We often fail to acknowledge the presence of the Risen Lord behind our unexpected



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successes, great achievements, promotions at work, miraculous healings, and success in relationships. He is right there in our parties, celebrations, and occasions of rejoicing.

The Risen Lord is present in our pains and suffering: Acts 9:1-13 tells us how the Risen Lord transformed the life of Saul by pushing him down onto the Damascus Road and making him temporarily blind. The same Jesus often visits us in the form of accidents, illnesses, the loss of dear ones, pain, suffering, and problems in relationships. The Risen Lord visits us through our friends and well-wishers: He is present in those who visit us and encourage us in our sad and desperate moments. The Risen Lord visits us in the form of unexpected help from the least expected persons in our dire needs.

The Risen Lord is present in our Christian worship: He is present on our altars during the Holy Mass to share His life with us; He is present in the words of Holy Scripture; He is there in the Sacraments, and He is there where two or three are gathered in his name (Mt 18: 20).

Deacon Des

Parish News

Mass – Monday 2nd May 2022: Please note there will be no Mass this Monday. Thank you.

Caritas Anchor House Fundraising Musical Evening 7th May 2022: The Visions Group has connected with the Caritas Anchor House Organisation who help the homeless of Newham. Led by Deacon Des, the Visions Group are working to raise funds for the charity by hosting a Musical evening in the Parish Centre. You will be entertained by the Stansted U3A Singers and Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers on Saturday 7th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m. Tickets cost £5 per person which will also include a free drink. Tickets will be on sale after Masses this Saturday (30th April) and Sunday (1st May).

They have also set up a JustGiving Fundraising Page should you wish to make a direct donation. The details are as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sainttheresastanstedanchorhouse>

First Reconciliations and First Holy Communion: Thank you to the Parish for the continued prayers for our First Holy Communion children Alice, Arianna, Herbie, Isabella, Jessica, Jude, Marcus, Mikolaj, Molly, Noah, Olivia, Rebecca, Roman, Trinity and Zofia.

The children will make their First Reconciliations on Saturday 7th May so please remember them in your prayers. Final preparations are taking place for the First Holy Communion Mass which takes place on Sunday 15th May at 4:00 p.m.

They are well prepared, eager and excited. Please remember them in your prayers as we build towards May 15th and especially on the day, perhaps making a special prayer at 4:00 p.m. Pray that this will be the start of a long communion with God as they develop a deeper and abiding relationship with our Loving Father.

Gift Aid: Our thanks to those that have collected donation envelopes for the tax year just started. If you have not yet collected your envelope, please email Clair in the Parish Office.

If you pay tax on your income and would like to donate using envelopes, please email Angelo at stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details.

If you collected a Gift Aid form in the last few weeks, please complete and return them as soon as you're able, so that we can issue your envelopes.

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 Angelo 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.



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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, 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

Visions Group: The 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.

Encounter meeting: 20th May in St Theresa's Parish Centre. All welcome to share faith & friendship in a convivial space, among those we have missed over the last 2 years. 9.30am Mass; Coffee & chat; prayer and readings. Shared lunch from 12.30. Enquiries: 652060.

The Happy Birds Te Deum Sing 'Tis Mary's Month of May: It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's great joy in her Son's victory over death as well as her presence with the apostles in the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

At the Visitation, Elizabeth said to Mary: Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. When we think of our Blessed Mother, we recognize that she is indeed blessed, not only because she was the Mother of Jesus, but because she believed in the Lord's words. She believed with all her heart and said "yes" to become the Mother of the Messiah and Son of God. She allowed herself to be led by God's grace throughout her life, a life rooted in a deep faith in God. She became her Son's first and most perfect disciple.

In our pilgrimage of faith, we walk always with Mary at our side. She is our model of faith and she helps us with her prayers to live by faith. She teaches us to believe as she believed.

During this month of May, we pay special honour to our Blessed Mother. In 1965, Pope Paul VI wrote a short encyclical on the month of May. He wrote that May is an occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance."

During this month many churches have celebrations of the crowning of images of Our Lady. This is a beautiful custom that expresses our love for the Mother of God as our Queen, we will have our own Crowning of Our Lady later this month. Other Marian devotions are particularly fitting in the month of May. Of course, the holy rosary is always a wonderful prayer to enter more deeply into the mysteries of Christ's life with Mary. It is a Gospel prayer.

All honour that we give to Mary is ordered to, and leads to, the adoration of God. Devotion to Mary fosters within us a faithful adherence to her Son. When we crown images of Mary, we are honouring her. In honouring Mary, we are ultimately praising God for the grace He bestowed on her.

We all probably have our favourite images of Mary as well as our favourite devotions: Our Lady of Walsingham, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Perpetual Help, the Miraculous Medal, etc. The many images and devotions express various aspects of Our Lady's vocation and mission. They help us to know the virtues of Mary and remind us to turn to her for her intercession.

I invite you to pray with Mary during this Marian month. Let us especially commend to her our prayers for life, marriage, and religious liberty. Let us all place ourselves in the school of Mary to learn from her how to love God more fervently and to love one another as her Son has loved us.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and draw us closer to Christ her Son! Fr Lee



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Mass Times and Intentions

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 30 th April	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mary Clarke R.I.P. & Family (B. Horton)
Sunday 1 st May <i>St Joseph the worker: Day of Prayer for Human Work</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> Mass: 12:00 p.m.	Sylvia Clement R.I.P. (J&C Welsh) People of the Parish Joseph Connor R.I.P. (L.Barker)
Monday 2 nd May <i>St Athanasius</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3 rd May	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Brian, Brigitte & Eva (O. Salici)
Wednesday 4 th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 5 th May	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 6 th May <i>St John Payne</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 7 th May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Banbridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 8 th May <i>Day of Prayer for Vocations</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



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



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