

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 15th May 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
Tel. 01279 814349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • www.sttheresastansted.org
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest-in-Charge: Fr. Lee Bennett freebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 814 349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 07748 464 101

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 816 889/07734 273 969

Gospel: John 13:31-35

'I give you a new commandment: love one another.'

Mass book (P. 271)

1st Reading:

Acts 14:21-27

Psalms 144:8-9, 10-11, 12-13:

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

2nd Reading:

Apocalypse 21:1-5a

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I give you a new commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you.' Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 273)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, describes how the small Christian communities helped the work of renewal in their members by their *agape* love, imitating the *agape* love of Paul and Barnabas. The second reading, from the Book of Revelation, explains how God renews His Church, *the New Jerusalem*, by being present in her members, in their parish communities, and in their liturgical celebrations. “*See, I am making all things new.*”

Today's Gospel reading comes from St. John's Gospel, known as “The Last Discourse,” which took place at the Last Supper, on the night before Jesus went to the Cross. In these chapters, Jesus has left urgent messages for his Apostles and for us – things that he wanted to tell us before he went away. This farewell discourse is a powerful and intimate part of Jesus' teaching on the Christian concepts of glory and love.

Today's Gospel passage gives us the secret of Christian renewal as the faithful practice of Jesus' new commandment: “*Love one another as I have loved you*” (Jn 13:35). Jesus has added a new element to the Old Testament command of love by teaching us that the true test of discipleship is to love other people in the same way that he has loved us, with sacrificial, selfless, self-giving, unconditional, *agape* love. Hence, the renewal of Christian life means a radical change of vision and a reordering of our priorities in life. Such a renewal brings us to embrace new attitudes, new values, and new standards of relating to God, to other people and, indeed, to our whole environment.



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

We are asked to love as Jesus loved, in the ordinary course of our lives. We love others by responding to their everyday needs with love and compassion. We love others by comforting and protecting those who have experienced loss. We love others by serving others in every possible way, no matter how small, seeing the face of Jesus in them. We love others by forgiving rather than condemning, by challenging rather than condoning. Finally, we love others by sacrificially sharing our time, talents, and blessings with them.

Deacon Des

Parish News

Returning to Mass at Pentecost: Since the start of the pandemic the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended. We are pleased to confirm that The Bishops of England and Wales have now removed this suspension with effect from Sunday 5th June 2022 (Pentecost Sunday). We look forward to welcoming those of you that are yet to return to Mass. A statement issued by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales is copied below:

Returning to Mass at Pentecost **An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales** *This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)*

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation." Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential.



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Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference
Friday 6th May

First Holy Communion: Many congratulations to the children taking their First Holy Communion this weekend. Please pray for Alice, Arianna, Herbie, Isabella, Jessica, Jude, Marcus, Mikolaj, Molly, Noah, Olivia, Rebecca, Roman, Trinity and Zofia.

Rita Morson R.I.P.: Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of our dear sister Rita Morson. Please also remember David and the family in your prayers. Rita's funeral Mass will take place here at St Theresa's on Friday 20th May 2022 at 11:00 a.m. followed by cremation at Cam Valley Crematorium at 1:00 p.m. Please note there will be no 9.30a.m. Mass on this day.

Caritas Anchor House Fundraising. Many thanks to all those that gave their time and talents last Saturday to entertain us at the Visions Group musical evening. As well as having a wonderful evening we managed to raise £1,140.00 for our Charity to help the Homeless. Thank you to Isobel Bradshaw who organised so much, including the U3A Singers. A special thanks to Francesca, Ethan and Isaac Wee who played the piano so brilliantly. But most importantly to those that bought tickets, those that couldn't come but gave a donation and to those that contributed to our JustGiving web page. There is still time to access the page. **THANK YOU** <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sainttheresastanstedanchorhouse>

Remember, Caritas Anchor House is a charity to help the homeless, and each year provides a home and support to over 250 people who have lost their homes. They work with the residents to build a better future through personalised support and development opportunities, so that they can leave homelessness behind for good.



Baptism Course: The next two course dates are 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.

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.

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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 14 th May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Michael Banbridge (J. Bambridge)
Sunday 15 th May <i>First Holy Communion</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: 4:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish First Holy Communion Children
Monday 16 th May	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 17 th May <i>St Paschal Baylon</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Franciscan Friars in Walsingham (O. Salici)
Wednesday 18 th May	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 19 th May	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 20 th May	Funeral Mass: 11:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Rita Morson R.I.P.
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 21 st May	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Elaine Smythe R.I.P. (S. Keith)
Sunday 22 nd May	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 Holy Souls (J&C Welsh)



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



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