

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 22nd 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.sttheresasstansted.org
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresasstansted

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 14:23-29

'The Holy Spirit will remind you of all I have said to you.'

Mass book (P. 273)

1st Reading:

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Psalm 66:2-3, 5-6. 8 r.4:

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

2nd Reading:

Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'
Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon: (P. 276)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's readings show us the effects of the abiding presence of God in His Church and of His indwelling in each one of us. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Church, helped the apostles to solve a major doctrinal problem, which shook the very foundation of the early Church. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 67) prays that all the nations on the earth, not just Israel, may recognize their God and praise Him. The second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation describes the Church as the Heavenly Jerusalem, a city united in love, with the victorious Jesus residing in it and in each of its members, replacing the holy presence of God in the Holy of Holies of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Gospel passage reminds us that the Holy Spirit abiding within us is our teacher and the Source of all peace. The passage offers a vision of hope. Jesus promises his followers that the Holy Spirit will come and instruct them in everything they need to know.

The Gospel today continues to recount Jesus' farewell discourse after the Last Supper. Today's Gospel passage explains the doctrine of the indwelling of the Holy Trinity in the human soul, and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1) The abiding presence of God in the human soul: The promise of God's abiding presence must have been of great comfort to John's community who knew that the Temple in Jerusalem — the symbol of God's presence with His people — had been destroyed by the Roman army. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells us that the one thing in life which we can always trust is God's presence. God inhabits our hearts so deeply and intimately that we become the visible dwelling place of God. His living and life-affirming Presence is always with us yet hidden in the very things we so often take for granted. Thus, we



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are invited to look for and encounter — “God-with-us,” yet “hidden” — in the person sitting next to us, in the words we speak, and in the songs, we sing at worship.

2) Condition for the indwelling of the Holy Trinity: Jesus teaches us the condition for this indwelling of the Holy Trinity, namely, we must show our love of God by keeping his word. And this keeping of his word will be facilitated by the Holy Spirit, God’s Holy Breath.

3) The role of the Holy Spirit is twofold: a) to “teach” the disciples and b) to “remind” them of what Jesus has already taught them” (v. 26). “At work since creation, having previously ‘spoken through the prophets,’ the Spirit will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them into all the truth” (CCC #243). Jesus affirms that even though He will no longer be visibly with them, he will continue to be present among them through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Truth will continue teaching them and helping them to understand and to build on what Jesus has already taught them. The Advocate will bring no new revelation because God has already revealed Himself in Jesus. But the Advocate will deepen their understanding of the revelation given by Jesus.

4) Jesus gives his followers four gifts: First, he gives them his love, which will enable them to keep his word. Next, he gives them the Holy Spirit, who will teach them everything they need to know. The Holy Spirit is the abiding love of God available to us, enabling us to accept the friendship of Jesus, while imitating Him, the Master. Third, he gives them His peace to strengthen them against fear in the face of trouble. Here “peace” is not just the absence of conflict, but also the far wider concept of shalom, the total well-being of the person and community. The promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will bring a peace that will quell their fears of the unfolding darkness ahead. “In Johannine language, peace, truth, light, life, and joy are figurative terms reflecting different facets of the great gift that Jesus has brought from God to the world. ‘Peace is my gift to you,’ is another way of saying, ‘I give them eternal life’ (Jn 10:28) (Raymond E. Brown).

The Holy Spirit is available as Comforter and Guide to those who believe in Jesus and follow in his way. The One God — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – is pure Love. This Love, the Triune God, comes and lives in us, takes up residence in us and lives in our body. When God’s love lives in us, and we live in Him, there is much more peace in our families, our Churches, our offices. Fourth, Jesus rewards them with the assurance of his second coming.

Let us be aware of the abiding presence of God within us: We live in the New Covenant of Jesus, daily facing uncertainty, conflict, and temptations. It is the abiding presence of God within us that enables us to face the future with undying hope and true Christian courage.

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 was copied into last weeks Newsletter, Should you require a copy please email Clair in the Parish office.

First Holy Communion: Congratulations to all of the children who received Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament for the first-time last Sunday afternoon. A huge thank you to them and their families who have engaged so well with our programme. This is the largest First Holy Communion group the Parish has had since the early 1990’s. We are incredibly proud of our children, do please continue to pray for them.



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Ascension of the Lord: This Thursday (26th May) is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. This is a Holyday of Obligation (even though this is temporally suspended until Sunday 5th June). There are two Masses on this day, one at 9:30 a.m. and a second at 7:30 p.m. Do please try to attend one of these Masses.

Crowning of Our Lady: It's a wonderful Catholic custom to crown Our Lady during the month of May. We will do this next Saturday 28th May at the end of the 6:00. p.m. Mass.

Parish and Bonus Ball Accounts April 2021 – April 2022: Please note the accounts are available to view via our website: <https://www.sttheresastansted.org/accounts/>

Weekday Masses: Please note there will be no weekday Masses the week commencing 30th May and the week commencing 6th June. Weekend Masses will continue as normal.

Parish Office closure: Please note the office will be closed from Friday 27th May and reopen on Tuesday 7th June. Thank you.

Baptism Course: The next two course dates are 15th June and 24th July; both on a Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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. Please note it will not be open the week commencing 30th May. Thank you.

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: 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.

Gift Aid: 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 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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Mass Times and Intentions

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)
Monday 23 rd May	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 24 th May	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Angelo (O. Salici)
Wednesday 25 th May <i>St Bede the Venerable</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 26 th May <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 7:00 p.m. Mass: 7:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Friday 27 th May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C		
Saturday 28 th 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 29 th May <i>World Communications Day</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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