

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST – 19th June 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: Luke 9:11-17

'They all ate as much as they wanted.'

Mass book (P. 83)

1st Reading:

Genesis 14:18-20

Psalm 109:1-4:

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 86)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Solemnity is one of the few Holy Days of Obligation that used to fall in the middle of the week, not to be restored to its rightful place. This great feast was always kept on the Thursday following the Most Holy Trinity. We hope that one day it may be restored to its rightful place, as its move to the Sunday removes the essential connection to the events of Maundy Thursday and the Last supper in the upper room.

At the dawn of salvation history, God revealed our future in certain figures. That's what's going on in today's First Reading: a priest-king comes from Jerusalem (see Psalm 76:3), offering bread and wine to celebrate the victory of God's beloved servant, Abram, over his foes. By his offering, Melchizedek bestows God's blessings on Abram. He is showing us, too, how one day we will receive God's blessings and in turn "bless God"—how we will give thanks to Him for delivering us from our enemies, sin and death. Melchizedek is one of the most mysterious figures in the Bible, one whose origins were unknown, who was a king, and yet had the power to bless. His gifts of bread and wine have always been seen to relate to the bread and wine blessed at the supper table by Jesus. In Jesus' life on earth, his ministry was characterised by his close and loving concern for his followers. While he refused to change the stones in the Wilderness of Temptation into bread, he thought of people's needs, and understood their physical hunger as a sign of spiritual need. He spoke of changing the bread of the Pharisees into the new leaven of his Word, and proclaimed himself the Bread of Life. The feeding of the 5000 was the greatest sign of his loving concern, and its full potential was revealed at the Last supper when Jesus' identification of himself with the bread broken and blessed was completed in the offering of his Body and Blood on the Cross.



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All who believe in him will accept this gift as Abraham did the bread and wine offered by Melchizedek. To Jesus' roles of prophet, priest, and king is added that of the Suffering Servant who becomes the bread of life. The theme of the meal now assumes an eschatological (relating to the end times – death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind in heaven or hell) perspective, with fulfilment in the heavenly kingdom symbolised by the banquet. These ideas have great significance for us at the most basic levels of our humanity and social behaviour: the need for food, for sharing, for compassion, for future fulfilment. In the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood we are linked to the past, to the sacrifice of Calvary, and to the triumph of the Resurrection re-presented to us, unbounded by time and space; we are bound now in unity to him and to each other in the celebration of the Eucharist; and in this participation we have a pledge of our future glory when we will drink the new wine with him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

As Paul recalls in today's Second Reading, Jesus transformed the sign of bread and wine, making it a sign of His body and blood, through which God bestows upon us the blessings of His "new covenant." Jesus is "the priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek," that God, in today's Psalm, swears will rule from Zion, the new Jerusalem (Cf. Hebrews 6:20–7:3). By the miracle of loaves and fishes, Jesus in today's Gospel, again prefigures the blessings of the Eucharist. Notice that He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the Twelve. You find the precise order and words in the Last Supper (Cf. Luke 22:19) and in His celebration of the Eucharist on the first Easter night (Cf. Luke 24:30). The Eucharist fulfils the offering of Melchizedek. It is the daily miracle of the heavenly high priesthood of Jesus. It is a priesthood He conferred upon the Apostles in ordering them to feed the crowd, in filling exactly twelve baskets with leftover bread—in commanding them on the night He was handed over: "Do this in remembrance of Me." Through His priests He still feeds us in "the deserted place" of our earthly exile. And by this sign He pledges to us a glory yet to come.

For as often as we share in His body and blood, we proclaim His victory over death, until He comes again to make His victory our own.

Fr Lee

St Bernadette Relic Tour 2022

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral. More details of the tour can be found on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website: www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/

Year of the Family

The 10th World Meeting of Families is taking place in Rome this coming week, with a programme of talks and liturgies which will be live-streamed via Vatican media channels. Our Diocese is marking the close of the Year of the Family at the annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life in July, which Bishop Alan will offer for the intentions of all families in the Diocese. If you would like a particular intention to be placed before the altar at this Mass, please complete the prayer request form which can be found on the new Marriage and Family Life pages of the Diocesan website, where you will also find more information about the World Meeting of Families: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life



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Parish News

Mia Catton RIP: Mia Catton, a former parishioner of our parish, died on Wednesday 8th June at the age of 97. Please remember her, her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in your prayers.

Volunteering: We would welcome anyone that wishes to start volunteering as a greeter, server, reader, collector, counter or can offer any other skill/assistance you can give to support the Parish; to make themselves known to Fr Lee or Deacon Des, Alternatively you can email the parish office at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org . Thank you.

Baptism Course: The next baptism course takes place on Wednesday 24th July; 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.

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.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022/2023: Should you wish your child to be registered for the First Holy Communion programme commencing around September 2022, please contact Clair by email or phone (details above) no later than noon on **Thursday, 28th July 2022**. (Late registration may mean your child will be registered for the 2023-2024 programme). Your child will need to be in Year 3 or above from September 1st, 2022. The workshops dates and an administration meeting with the new group and parents will be arranged in due course. Please look out for further 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.

Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra.

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.



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

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST – YEAR C		
Saturday 18 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 19 th June	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
Monday 20 th June	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 21 st June <i>St Aloysius Gonzaga</i>	Confessions: 7:15 p.m. Mass (Latin): 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Marudith & Family (O. Salici)
Wednesday 22 nd June <i>St John Fisher & St Thomas More</i>	Confessions: 12:00 p.m. Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 23 rd June <i>Nativity of St John the Baptist</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Friday 24 th June <i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	Confessions: 9:00 a.m. Mass: 9:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 25 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 26 th June	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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