

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 7th August 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 12:32-48

'You too must stand ready'

Mass book (P. 121)

1st Reading:

Wisdom 18:6-9

Psalm 32:1:

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

2nd Reading:

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 124)

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's reading from Luke 12 is one of three eschatological discourses in the Gospel. All three of the Synoptic Gospels record Jesus' concern for his disciples as he warned them to keep alert, to keep watch over themselves with careful attention. The passage is a collection of short parables, in which the chief characters are a master (representing the risen Jesus), and his servants (Jesus' followers). According to the Fathers of the Church, Jesus' words in this passage have two senses. In the narrower sense, the words refer to the Second Coming of Jesus, but in the broader sense they refer to the time of our own death, when God will call us to meet Him and to give Him an account of our life on earth. Since the precise time of either coming is unknown to us, the proper attitude for Jesus' followers is constant watchfulness. "The secret to living out the theological virtue of Faith is to see that the here and now is the place and time in which God wants us to meet Him and to serve Him. It is not in the past, which is over. It is not the future, which we can only imagine and so is not real. The person in the state of grace who washes the dishes well, because it is his job, and who offers this work to God for the sake of his neighbour, is living out the virtue of Faith and is prepared to meet Christ." (St. Jose Maria Escriva).

In the first part of today's Gospel, Jesus tells us what our real treasure should be and how we may keep it safe. The treasure God offers is of far greater value and is more secure than any earthly treasure. Nevertheless, it is possible for us to lose this treasure if we do not guard it carefully. The treasure is the Faith-relationship with God, which the Lord offers us in Baptism, a share in His own Life (Sanctifying Grace) through which we begin, here on earth, to lead our eternal life in Heaven with Him. But this treasure can be stolen by the devil or lost by our lack of vigilance during our temptations. Jesus uses two comparisons to explain the nature of the vigilance required of us. We must be ready for action like a servant and trimmed for service like an oil lamp. The long flowing robes worn by people of the day were a hindrance to work. When a man prepared himself to work, he gathered up his robes under his girdle



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(belt) to leave himself free for activity. The reference to fastened belts and lamps burning ready (v. 35) also recalls the preparedness for action, which was legislated for Israel in the Passover ritual (Ex12:1). Just as the Israelites were to be ready to pass from slavery to freedom, so are the disciples to live in a state of alertness to recognize and accept the Passover which Jesus offers – from sin and death to forgiveness and life.

In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus exhorts his followers to be steadfast in their Faith and ever vigilant. He explains his point using three mini-parables. The servants of a master were entrusted with the management of the household. In Jesus' day, although stewards were slaves, they had almost unlimited power. A trusted steward ran his master's house and administered his estate. When his master was not at home, the steward was ever vigilant. He prepared himself for his master's return at any time of the day or night by always doing his duties faithfully. Jesus illustrates the same point using another mini parable of the wise servants waiting for the return of their master after a wedding feast.

Jesus teaches us the need for constant vigilance, using yet another mini parable, that of the thief and the treasure. We should not lose our treasure of Divine grace like the man who awoke one day to discover that a thief had stolen his wealth during the night. These parables are addressed to all believers to encourage "wakefulness" and preparedness. We must be vigilant like the servant in the parable waiting for his master's unexpected return or like the wise homeowner who was well prepared for the unexpected break-in of a thief. Since the time of our death is quite uncertain, we, too, must be ever ready to meet our Lord at any moment. He should find us carrying out our tasks of love, mercy, and service, rather than leaving things undone or half-done. He should also find us at peace with God, with ourselves and with our fellowmen (Eph 4:26).

Jesus then presents the parable of the unwise steward as a warning to us. The unwise steward made two mistakes. (i) He said, "I will do what I like while my master is away. "Like him, we often forget that our Lord is always with us, and that we will be accountable to him on the day of reckoning. Misuse of an office for one's own advantage or the abuse of others will bring about severe punishment, for the returning Lord will place that servant "with the unfaithful." (ii) He said, "I have plenty of time to put things right before the master comes." Nothing is as fatal to the accomplishment of a task as procrastination. Jesus also warns us that knowledge and privilege bring responsibility with them. Today, looking back on two thousand years of Christian history, we find it difficult to expect Christ's second coming during our lifetime. But we are sure to meet him at our death. Since the date and time of our death are also unknown to us, we should always be ready to give him an account of our lives.

Deacon Des

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/

Parish News

Father Lee farewell: We wish Father Lee all the very best in his new parish. Please remember to join us after the 10am Mass on Sunday 28th August for a farewell gathering in the parish centre, where all can take the opportunity to have tea/coffee and hopefully some cake and to say goodbye to Fr Lee and Helen.

Bishop Alan Mass Celebration Sunday 21st August 2022: Bishop Alan will be celebrating Mass here on Sunday 21st August 2022. There will be coffee and tea in the parish centre after the 10am mass and a chance for people to say hello to the Bishop.



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Masses: A reminder that there will be no weekday Masses for the month of August. Weekend Masses will, however, continue. Cover will be provided as follows:

Saturday 13th August: Fr Stewart Foster

Saturday 20th August: Fr Stewart Foster

Saturday 27th August: Fr Michael Halsall

Sunday 14th August: Fr Stewart Foster

Sunday 21st August: Bishop Alan Williams SM

Sunday 28th August: Fr Michael Halsall

Please continue to check the Newsletter, website, and Facebook page for any last-minute changes. Thank you.

Volunteering: We would welcome anyone that wishes to start volunteering as a greeter, server, reader, collector, counter or can offer any other skill/assistance to support the Parish. Please make yourself known to Deacon Des. Alternatively, you can email the parish office at 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 Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 6 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mary O'Regan R.I.P. (O'Regan Family)
Sunday 7 th August	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 (Latin): 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Joe Bonavia R. I. P. (N&L Handzel- Bonavia)
Monday 8 th August <i>St Dominic</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 9 th August <i>St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross</i>	No Mass	
Wednesday 10 th August <i>St Lawrence</i>	No Mass	
Thursday 11 th August <i>St Claire</i>	No Mass	
Friday 12 th August	No Mass	
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – YEAR C		
Saturday 13 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 14 th August	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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