

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 21st August 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

'Men from the east and west will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.'

Mass book (P. 127)

1st Reading:

Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm 11:6:

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

2nd Reading:

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! 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. 129)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

***Welcome to Fr Stewart Foster and Bishop Alan Williams SM
who will celebrate Masses with us this weekend.***

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

“Are you saved?” When the questioner asked Jesus “How many will be saved?” he was assuming that the salvation of God’s Chosen People was virtually guaranteed, provided they kept the Law. In other words, the Kingdom of God was reserved for the Jews alone, and Gentiles would be shut out. The Jewish catechism, Mishnah, taught: “All Israelites have a share in the world to come.” The author of the Apocalypse of Ezra declared, “this age the Most High has made for the many, but the age to come for a few” (4 Ezra 8:1). Hence, Jesus’ answer must have come as a shock. Jesus affirms that God wants all persons to enjoy eternal life. But he stresses our need for constant fidelity and vigilance throughout our lives. Thus, Jesus reminds us that, even though God wants all of us to be saved, we all need to work at it.

Entry into God’s kingdom is not automatically granted, based purely on religious affiliation or nationality, so we cannot presume on God’s mercy and do nothing by way of response to God’s invitation. What Jesus is saying is that salvation is not guaranteed for anyone. “Outside the Church there is no salvation” was a rallying cry for centuries. But Jesus declares that nobody can claim that he is “saved,” possessing a “visa” to Heaven. How many will be saved in the end is a decision that rests with God and depends on His Justice which includes His Mercy. Jesus came to bring God’s love and freedom to the whole world. The message of his Gospel is that there is not a single person, people, nation, race, or class, which will be excluded from experiencing the love and liberation that God offers. Hence, the role of the Christian community, from the beginning until the end of time, is, first and foremost, to proclaim to the whole world the Good News of God’s love for the world, and then to show this Good News to be real,



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made visible in the loving, sharing, and serving lives of individual Christians. So, to be “saved” means to live and to die in a close, loving relationship with God and with others.

Jesus issued a series of sayings and parables that emphasized the difficulty involved in entering God’s Kingdom, and he stressed the need for our constant fidelity and vigilance throughout our lives. Jesus also insisted that salvation was an urgent matter — the “narrow gate” was open now but would not remain so indefinitely (“the master of the house will lock the door”). Then he added two conditions: a) Eternal salvation is the result of a struggle: “keep on striving to enter.” (The Greek word *agonizomai* means strenuous effort in athletic competition. It is like the effort one would make in swimming against the current in a river. A man must ever be going forward or else he will go backward. b) We must enter through the “narrow gate” of sacrificial and selfless service.

God allows us to decide every day what road we will walk down and what gate we will choose. He encourages us, however, to choose His way: “Choose life” (Moses – Dt 30:19-20); “Choose this day whom to serve” (Joshua – Jos 24:15); “If God is Lord, follow Him” (Elijah – 1 Kgs 18:21); “There are two paths: one of life and one of death, and the difference between the two is great.” (Didache); “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Lk 9:23). This means a consistent denial of self and the steady relinquishing of sinful pleasures, pursuits, and interests. St. Paul lists these sins in Galatians 5:19-21: “The works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, and occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like.” Paul then enumerates “good works” that are representative of the “narrow road” and “narrow gate.” These are “the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22-23). In other words, the “narrow road” or “narrow gate” concerns our everyday living—our relationships with God and with one another. To enter the narrow gate involves being with the blessed ones (poor, peacemakers, persecuted, etc), being salt and light consistently, following Jesus’ radical way about murder/anger, adultery/lust, divorce, truth-telling, choosing mercy over revenge, loving enemies. And it involves doing good deeds for the right reasons; it involves pursuing the Kingdom and God’s justice instead of fame and fortune; and it involves not condemning others. It involves repentance, obedience, humility, righteousness, truth, and discipleship. Hence, we are to strive to enter through the “narrow gate” by prayer and supplication, diligently seeking deliverance from those things which would bar our entrance and acquiring those things which would facilitate our entry.

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/



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Parish News

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 27th August: Fr Michael Halsall

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. Please note however, the church will be closed from Tuesday 23rd August and reopen on Tuesday 6th September. Thank you.

Parish Office: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Friday 19th August and reopen on Tuesday 6th September.

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 20 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 21 st 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
Monday 22 nd August <i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 23 rd August	No Mass	
Wednesday 24 th August <i>St Bartholomew</i>	No Mass	
Thursday 25 th August	No Mass	
Friday 26 th August	No Mass	
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 27 th August	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 28 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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