

# The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022

*Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux*

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## Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

*'None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'*

**Mass book (P. 133)**

**1st Reading:**

**Psalm 89: 3-6. 12-14. 17 r.1:**

**2nd Reading:**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Communion Antiphon: (P. 135)**

*Wisdom 9:13-18*

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

*Philemon 9-10, 12-17*

*Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!*

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

*Welcome to Fr Dominic White and Fr Stewart Foster  
who will celebrate Masses with us this weekend.*

## Greetings from Fr Liam

*Dear Friends,*



I am delighted to have been appointed by Bishop Alan as your new Parish Priest and I am very much looking forward to joining you later this month.

I especially look forward to getting to know you, your families and our wider community in the months and years ahead as we journey together as the pilgrim *People of God*.

I know that I have much to learn from you in the months to come, and I have much that I wish to share – but the beginning of this shared journey will have to wait a few more weeks until I arrive for my first weekend on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> / Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September, that will permit me to keep some prior commitments.

Until then I shall be keeping you in prayer and ask that you keep me in your prayers as I prepare to join you for the adventure that lies ahead as disciples of the Risen Lord.

With warm wishes

*Liam*

**Fr Liam Hayes**



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

## **This Week's Good News**

Dear Friends,

Today, the church celebrates the spirit of commitment and self-sacrifice of Christ. The spirit of self-sacrifice motivates one do the unimaginable. It was this spirit that made Jesus give up everything, including his own life for our sake. So, through this same spirit, we can become true his disciples of Christ.

Today's first reading draws our attention to the depth of the wisdom of God. He alone knows his intentions for humanity. However, this intention has been fully revealed in Christ who willingly sacrificed himself in order to save us. So, it is the spirit of wisdom that helps us to penetrate into the mystery of God's intention revealed in Christ. In this way, this mystery becomes spirit and life for us.

In the second reading, Paul sent back Onesimus to Philemon in the spirit of sacrifice. Although Paul needed Onesimus and had every right to retain him, he allowed him to return to his former master Philemon who equally needed him. Philemon also had to sacrifice something. He has to drop all his misgiving against Onesimus. So, he was admonished to receive Onesimus as a brother rather than as a slave.

Hence, Paul teaches us that we can equally sacrifice our own comfort in order to restore that of others. Also, we must be ready to make some sacrifices in order to repair and restore relationships. There is nothing we cannot sacrifice for the sake of God and humanity.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites us to imbibe his spirit of commitment and sacrifice in order to be true His true disciples. He says: "If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife...and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple." What does Christ mean by "hating"? He simply teaches and call us to us to learn to make sacrifice, and to be committed to our missions and calls.

Christ is not literarily calling us to hate the members of our family in order to be his disciples. He loved and obeyed his own parents. Also, His mother Mary was one of His first and best disciples. So, we too must love members of our family. He is not in any way preaching the gospel of hatred. Rather, he wants us to be more committed to his ministry. He wants us to be willing to sacrifice our own comfort whenever duty calls.

Maximilian Kolbe did this in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1941 by offering his life for a fellow prisoner, so that he might live to take care of his family. Christ wants us to imbibe Paul's spirit of sacrifice and commitment.

To be Christ's disciple, means being ready to make sacrifices. Carrying our cross and following Christ also means subduing our own will in order to do His Will. That is, being ready to give up anything. Without commitment and sacrifice, we remain attached to our will, and so, cannot be true disciples of Christ. Without it, we cannot see the needs of others.

Finally, commitment and sacrifice help us to give up anything in order to gain all. It disposes us to be better disciples of Christ. It helps us to be better husbands, wives, parents, and children. It helps us to be better leaders and even servants. In the spirit of commitment and sacrifice, the wisdom of God becomes fully alive and active in us. It also helps us deepen our trust in God's divine providence and protection. Hence, we can confidently proclaim: "O Lord you have been my refuge from one generation to the next".

Deacon Des



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## 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/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/)

### Parish News

Masses: As you will have read above, Fr Liam will join us in the Parish on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Therefore, no weekday Masses will take place for the month of September. Weekend Masses will, however, continue. Cover will be provided as follows:

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Fr Dominic White

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September: Fr Euan Marley

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September: Fr Dominic White

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September: Fr Stewart Foster

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Fr Stewart Foster

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September: Fr Dominic White

**Welcome Teas and Coffee:** To welcome Fr Liam to the parish, and to give him the chance to meet us all and begin to get to know us, we would like to hold a coffee morning after the 10am Mass on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September. If you are willing to volunteer and assist with the coffee morning, please speak with Deacon Des or contact Clair in the Parish office. 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](mailto: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.

**Parish Office:** Please note that the Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

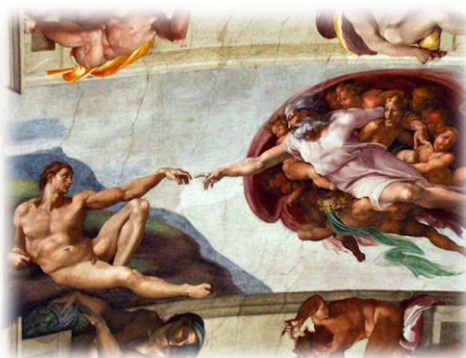
During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.



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## Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>John Whiting R.I.P.</b> (K. Whiting)
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b>  Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Hanh Tran R.I.P.</b> (W. Dodd)  <b>People of the Parish</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>No Mass</b>	
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September <i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>No Mass</b>	
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Confessions: <b>5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.</b> Mass: <b>6:00 p.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Mass: <b>8:30 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: <b>9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.</b>  Mass: <b>10:00 a.m.</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>People of the Parish</b>



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



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