

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 18th September 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

'You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

Mass book (P. 140)

1st Reading:

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 112: 1-2. 4-8 r.1. 7:

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

2nd Reading:

Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 142)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Welcome to Fr Dominic White who will celebrate Masses with us this weekend.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel appears to show Jesus praising the actions of a dishonest steward. When reading the text, it could be interpreted that Jesus is displaying some form of admiration for the steward, who aware that he is about to be found out for misusing his master's goods, decides to defraud his master's accounts even further by cancelling debts to make himself allies for when the inevitable happened and he was dismissed.

Jesus is certainly not asking us to use the steward as a role model. This is clear from the description of the steward as 'dishonest' or 'unjust'. Rather it is the steward's master who praises the steward in the parable for acting prudently during a time of crisis.

Jesus then uses the parable to teach and says, "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." In other words, those who are attached to worldly things know how to be prudent for the future. The steward cancelled his commission on the debts so that if he was fired, then he would have people he could go to for help. In this case, the message is that those who are of the world can be more concerned about their economic future than Christians are about their spiritual future.

This parable teaches us that we must be prudent, and that we bear a responsibility to ensure that we are not careless about money, but to use it for the good not just of ourselves but for others. If we cannot be trusted to be prudent and are careless with money, which is only relevant in this life, how can we be trusted with true riches, with eternal life? We cannot serve two masters, but only one, God or money.



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It raises questions that should make us stop and think. How do we lead our lives? Is our eternal salvation at the forefront of how we behave? What comes first in our life, God, or Mammon? These questions permeate into every aspect of our lives.

We are called to live out the Gospel values in our daily lives. Endless love, endless compassion, endless forgiveness, and endless concern for the poor and the marginalised, the lonely and the rejected.

Christianity goes beyond partisan politics, it poses difficult questions for those in positions of power and authority, as well as for us. Jesus asks us today to put God first, to put our future salvation at the forefront of our concern and to use those gifts that God has given us, including money, that is spiritually beneficial for us. This includes holding those in authority to account for the fiscal decisions they make which marginalise sections of our communities. Faith needs to be added to reason, so that decisions made on our behalf are made for the common good.

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.

The relics of St Bernadette will come to the Brentwood Cathedral of St Mary and St Helen on 16th October at 10am and depart the following day at 12 noon. On 18th October, they will arrive at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead at 10am and will leave on 19th October at 9am.

The venues hosting St Bernadette's relics have a fixed capacity for visitors. To ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims, visitors are asked to register their attendance, choosing a dedicated timeslot at a church or cathedral of their choice.

More details of the tour can be found on our website and on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website: www.cbcew.org.uk/st-bernadette-relic-tour-2022/



Celebrating the beauty of our Faith – 18th September 2022

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. “Evangelii Gaudium” is Latin for “Joy of the Gospel”. The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate at the Bishops’ Conference in supporting our bishops in three important areas:

- Firstly, evangelisation and catechesis. Guided by the Bishops, this work supports the dioceses in bringing the beauty of the Catholic Faith to the people in their parishes, and to those who do not yet know the Lord.



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- Secondly, the beauty of the Liturgy and our church buildings. The Mission directorate ensures that liturgical directives from Rome are acted upon and liturgical texts are translated into English. Historical building experts work in the Directorate and support dioceses to fund and maintain beautiful places for prayer.

- Thirdly, sharing the beauty of the Catholic faith with Christians and non-Christians through outreach and dialogue. This work supports the bishops at the national level and helps create greater understanding. The directorate also reaches out to those with no faith, but who seek the Lord “with a sincere heart”.

Please support the Mission Directorate through prayer and giving to the second collection. However much you give, big or small, it will go directly to support these three important areas of work.

More information can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/what-is-evangelii-gaudium-sunday/>

Parish News

Daily Adoration: In lieu of no weekday masses until the arrival of Fr Liam, Deacon Des will be holding a Holy hour from 10.30 am commencing Monday 19th September. The Holy hour will be held daily, apart from Thursday 22nd September. This will include Adoration and Benediction. All are welcome.

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 25th 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.

Cleaning Rota: We are looking for volunteers to run a cleaning rota, as well as cleaners, for the Church and Parish Centre. Please make yourself known to Deacon Des. Alternatively, you can email the parish office at stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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 .

Jennifer Lauture Fundraising Officer from Caritas Anchor House: Jennifer Lauture was due to join The Visions Group on the 19th September. Unfortunately, due to the Bank Holiday for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Funeral, the talk has been rearranged for later this year. Once the details have been confirmed we will share via the Newsletter.

Visions Group: We 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. Please note the meeting will not take place on Monday 19th September. Thank you.

Encounter Group: Leaflets detailing the new programme of meetings are now available from the church foyer. These monthly meetings are open to all. Talk & discussion from 10.30-12.30pm; shared lunch; ends from 2.00pm. The first meeting takes place this Friday (23rd September) in the Parish Centre at St Theresa's. The topic is ‘Jesus’ teaching on the Kingdom of God; Old Testament fulfilment or break with tradition?’ 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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 17th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions for the Joy Family (P. Meadley)
Sunday 18th September <i>Home Mission 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
Monday 19th September	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
Tuesday 20th September <i>Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday 21st September	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
Thursday 22nd September <i>St Matthew</i>	No Mass or Adoration and Benediction	
Friday 23rd September <i>St Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 24th September	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bridget McCreanor R.I.P. (S. Wood)
Sunday 25th September	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> 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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