

# *The Little Flower Messenger*

Year C – TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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## **Gospel: Luke 16:19-31**

*'Good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus.  
Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.'*

### **Mass book (P. 143)**

#### **1st Reading:**

Amos 6:1, 4-7

#### **Psalm 145:7-10 r.2:**

*My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

#### **2nd Reading:**

1 Timothy 6:11-16

#### **Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,  
says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!*

#### **Communion Antiphon: (P. 146)**

*Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you  
have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.*

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## **Welcome Fr Liam**

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

Dear Friends,

The main theme of this Sunday's readings is the warning that the selfish and extravagant use of God's blessings, like wealth, without sharing them with the poor and the needy is a serious sin deserving eternal punishment. Today's readings stress the Covenant responsibility of the rich for the poor, reminding us of the truth that wealth without active mercy for the poor is great wickedness. It warns us against making money the goal of our existence.

Amos, in the first reading, issues a powerful warning to those who seek wealth at the expense of the poor and who spend their time and their money on themselves alone. He prophesies that those rich and self-indulgent people will be punished by God with exile because they don't care for their poor and suffering brothers. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 146) praises Yahweh, who cares for the poor. In the second reading, Paul admonishes us to "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness" – noble goals in an age of disillusionment – rather than riches. In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a warning, pointing to the destiny of the rich man who neglected his duty to show mercy to poor Lazarus. The rich man was punished, not for having riches, but for neglecting the Scriptures and what they taught on sharing his blessings with the poor.

Jesus told this parable to condemn the Pharisees for their love of money and lack of mercy for the poor. He also used the parable to correct three Jewish misconceptions held and taught by the Sadducees:



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- 1) Material prosperity in this life is God's reward for moral uprightness, while poverty and illness are God's punishment for sins. Hence, there is no need to help the poor and the sick for they have been cursed by God.
- 2) Since wealth is a sign of God's blessing, the best way of thanking God is to enjoy it by leading a life of luxury and self-indulgence in dress, eating and drinking, of course, after giving God His portion as tithe.
- 3) The parable also addresses the Sadducees' false doctrine which denied the soul's survival after death, and, so, the consequent retribution our deeds and neglects in this life will receive in the next. Jesus challenges these misconceptions through the parable and condemns the rich who ignore the poor they encounter. The parable also offers an invitation to each one of us to be conscious of the sufferings of those around us and to share our blessings generously.

Naturally, we are tempted to ask the question, why was the rich man punished? Because he continued to commit the sin of omission although he did not drive either the poor beggar or the stray dogs from in front of his door nor did he prevent either from sharing the discarded crumbs and leftovers from his table. He did not kick Lazarus. He was not cruel to him. The sin of the rich man was that he never noticed Lazarus as a human being and a brother, and who represents a fact of life: the poor, the sick, and the unfortunate who are always around us. He did no wrong, but he did nothing good, either. The problem that rich Dives encountered was that he seemed oblivious to the fact that poor Lazarus was right there outside his gate, and he did not recognize him nor his obligation in charity and justice to help him! In Catholic teaching, that is the sin of omission (not doing what one is supposed to do).

This parable teaches important lessons:

- a) It reminds us that eventually all of us will experience God's justice after our death ("particular judgment"), when we are asked to give an account of our lives.
- b) It points to the Law and the Prophets (the Sacred Scriptures), as ways to learn how to practice righteousness and sacrificial sharing.
- c) It looks ahead to our resurrection ("neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead"), and the reality that the people who heed nothing and die unrepentant will suffer for it.
- d) God permits injustices in this life, though not in the next.
- e) Perhaps the main lesson of this parable is that supreme self-love is total moral depravity and making self-gratification one's supreme goal in life does not merely lead to sin – it is sin.

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 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10am and depart the following day at 12 noon. On 18<sup>th</sup> October, they will arrive at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead at 10am and will leave on 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



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



## Parish News

**Daily Adoration:** In lieu of no weekday masses until Fr Liam is settled, Deacon Des will be holding a Holy hour from 10.30 am commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The Holy hour will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. This will include Adoration and Benediction. All are welcome.

**Welcome Tea 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 shall be having a tea and coffee morning after today's 10am Mass (Sunday 25th September). All are welcome.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

**Teams4U Christmas Shoeboxes for Deprived Children:** For many years during October, we have been collecting small toys and school notebooks, pens, pencils, gloves, hats, soap, toothpaste and brushes etc to send to deprived children in Ukraine and other locations. These are packed into individual boxes and delivered by lorry through the charitable organisation Teams4 U.

Each box will cost £3 to send and we would be very grateful for any contributions you are able to make, either towards the costs or items for the children. You will find a poster in the porch and some leaflets with more information. You will also see a large red box where your donations can be placed.

To help with the costs we are also joining with the village churches to hold a Quiz in St Theresa's Hall on October 8th at 7pm. Tickets priced at £7 can be obtained from Helen Baker Tel 814865 or Eileen Quinn. Tel 812109. Please support if you can. Thank you.

**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.

**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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish  52 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Parish of St. Theresa Stansted Mountfitchet
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	No Mass or Adoration	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	No Mass or Adoration	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Adoration and Benediction: 10:30 a.m.	
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Brian McCreanor R.I.P. (S. Wood)
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish  Apolonia Babula R.I.P (E.Moser)



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



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