

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2nd October 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

'If only you had faith!'

Mass book (P. 146)

1st Reading:

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

Psalm 94: 1-2. 6-9 r.9:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading:

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 148)

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

All three readings for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time speak a lot about “Faith” and how it works in our lives. “To one who has Faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without Faith no explanation is possible.” (St. Thomas Aquinas). It is this Faith that is the nucleus of all our readings today. They give us three dimensions of Faith. The theological virtue of Faith enables us to believe something to be true and therefore worthy of trust simply because it has been revealed to us by God. In his instructions to Timothy, Paul, who elsewhere defined Faith as, “the assurance of the things hoped for,” shows Faith operating as a believing, trusting, loving relationship with Christ. Finally, Christian Faith is that trusting Faith in God in action, expressed by steadfast loyalty, fidelity, and total commitment to Him, resulting in our offering ourselves to Him in those we encounter, through our humble, loving service.

The first reading defines Faith as trusting in God and faithfully living out His Covenant with us. Here, Faith is presented as trust and steadfast expectation in the face of suffering and delay. God assures the prophet that although “the rash one” that is one who does not believe, “has no integrity, “the just one, because of his Faith, will live” because he will lead a righteous life amid encircling evil. Faith, then, is the foundation of faithfulness; and faithfulness strengthens Faith. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 95), God is characterized as a sturdy rock and a caring shepherd, surely worthy of our trusting Faith. This reminds us of St. Augustine's advice to “pray as though everything depended on God and work as though everything depended on you.” The second reading explains why Faith gives us a new way of looking at things and a new way of living. Paul reminds Timothy, and us that Faith is our acceptance of Jesus as the fulfilment of the promises of God. Paul stresses the need for a living Faith in, and loyalty to, Christ's teachings, which have been handed down to us by the Church. Hence, Faith is belief in, and acceptance of, revealed truths, based simply on the authority and veracity of God, and Hope is trust in God. Faith not



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only enables us to be faithful; it also strengthens us to be courageous. Faith grows as we put it to use by obediently rendering humble service to God in others.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his Apostles that Faith allows us to share in God's power, and, hence, even in small quantities, deep Faith enables Him to work miracles in our lives and in the lives of others. It is Faith which makes one just, putting him into right relation with God and neighbour. In the Bible, Faith means reliance on, or confidence in, God, and Hope is the expectation of a better future. While the Apostles ask for an increase in the quantity of their Faith, Jesus reminds them, and us, that the quality of their faith is more important. Using a master-servant parable, Jesus also teaches them, and us, that, for Faith to be effective, it must be linked with trust, loving obedience, and total commitment — an active submission to God and a willingness to do whatever He commands, even in tough times.

Deacon Des

Thought for the Week

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to celebrate mass with you for the first time last weekend as we set out on our journey together. I am most grateful for your warm welcome and also for your kind words and prayers. My thanks again to all those who helped prepare our music for the liturgy and the refreshments for our coffee morning after Mass. It will take me a while to remember all your names - so please do keep reminding me!

This weekend we celebrate our parish feast day and continue to seek inspiration and sustenance from St. Thérèse, a doctor of the Church. Through her wisdom and insight, we pray that Thérèse will continue to shed light for us on what love and charity, justice and peace might look like in our homes, our parish and our wider world, so that we might respond to the call of *Gaudium et spes* - that great pastoral document of Vatican II – to discern together the ‘signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel.’ (GS, 4)

I wonder what it is that you think is the greatest need that our world faces today and how you think that we as Church might best, in partnership with others, respond to this challenge?

I'd be delighted to hear your thoughts and wisdom...when you are reminding me of your name!!

Wishing you all a very blessed week,

Liam

CAFOD Family Fast Day – World Food Crisis Appeal : Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. As each day goes by, the situation worsens. As people of faith we must act. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please give today or start a monthly gift to CAFOD. Use the envelope for located in the entrance and place them into our parish collection or go to www.cafod.org.uk/fastday



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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.

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/



Parish News

St Theresa Feast Day: To celebrate our feast day please join us after the 10am Mass today (Sunday 2nd October) for tea, coffee and hopefully cake!. All are welcome.

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.

Churches Together Harvest Supper: This year's Churches Together Harvest supper will take place in the Parish Centre on Sunday 16th October at 6:00p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance no later than Monday 10th October. Tickets cost £10 and include a fish and chip supper. For tickets and further details please call 814 865, 813 579 or 816 293. 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 1 st October	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Brian McCreanor R.I.P. (S. Wood)
Sunday 2 nd 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)
Monday 3 rd October <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	❖	
Tuesday 4 th October	❖	
Wednesday 5 th October	Mass: 12:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed.</i>	
Thursday 6 th October	❖	
Friday 7 th October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	❖	
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 8 th October	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 9 th October	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Eamon McLoughlin R.I.P (His Family & Friends)



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



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