

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23rd October 2022

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Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

'The publican went home at rights with God; the Pharisee did not.'

Mass book (P. 155)

1st Reading:

Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

Psalm 33:2-3. 17-19.23 r.7:

This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

2nd Reading:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 157)

We will ring out our joy at your saying help and exult in the name of our God.

A thought from Fr Liam...

Dear Friends

It would surely be a perfect example of British understatement to observe that the political and financial waters have been somewhat choppy these past ten days or so. Yet the tragicomedy of Westminster that has unfolded before us is in danger of masking and diverting our attention from the very real crisis that is starkly evident before us.

On Wednesday morning, as the reported inflation figures registered 10.1%, stories of acute hardship, poverty and financial fear filled the airwaves from pensioners to students, refugees to mortgage payers - women and men sharing stories of their visceral fear of being unable to afford to turn on the heating, feed their children, pay their bills or continue to house people seeking refuge from war.

This sits alongside the deeply entrenched world food crisis that has engulfed the daily lives of our sisters and brothers in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan where up to 20 million people are fighting for their very survival – a disaster that Cafod reminds us is ‘created by a perfect storm of converging crises – including the coronavirus pandemic, climate change and the Ukraine conflict, causing food prices to rocket.’

Across our world and here in the UK people are crying out. When one member of our human race suffers, so does the whole – all humanity is disfigured.



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God remains in deep solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, oppressed and afflicted. The good news of Jesus begins in solidarity with those who are poor.

We as followers of Jesus are called to 'go and do likewise'.

We are called by Jesus to put the words and gestures of our faith into action such that our personal and communal faith finds a clear expression of solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are vulnerable and poor.

'Solidarity' as Pope John Paul II reminded us 'is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual.'

We are all invited to reflect on what our own personal expression of solidarity looks like - and to ponder on how we as a parish community might express our solidarity with our sisters and brothers and commit ourselves to the common good.

Wishing you all a thoughtful and blessed week

Liam

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The parable we hear today in Luke's Gospel concerning the proud pharisee and the humble publican remind us of how God values the prayers of the humble and contrite heart. Of all of the four evangelists, Luke probably more than the others, places great emphasis on prayer as can be seen by the various parables on prayer we find in Luke's Gospel, the friend who calls at midnight (11:5-8), the widow and the unjust judge (18:1-8), and the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (18:9-14). Over the last few weeks, we have been reminded of the need to pray with persistence and faith.

However, today's parable has a double meaning. Firstly, it warns us against pride and disregard for others, and secondly, reminds us to always approach prayer in a humble and contrite way. The Pharisee, full of self-pride and contempt for the Tax Collector, glories in obeying all the rules and regulations of the Jewish faith but neglecting an important part of that faith and tradition which was mercy and compassion. The Tax Collectors were the pariahs of the Jewish society. Hated and despised by everyone, including their Roman overlords. However, when both approach God as sinners, it is only the Tax Collector who does so in a spirit of repentance, contrite and asking for forgiveness. The Pharisee is full of his own importance and has no intention of asking for God's mercy, as he does not feel he needs it.

The Pharisees are a permanent reminder to us even today, of the error of valuing rules and tradition over mercy, forgiveness, and love. We see this today, infighting within the Church, with Catholics who are so pre-occupied with being what they consider to be Catholic, that they forget about being Christians. We need to remember that if we truly consider ourselves disciples of Christ, then we need to be more like the Tax Collector when we approach God in prayer. Humble, contrite, and aware of our own sinfulness and never looking down on those around us.

Deacon Des



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Catholic Social Teaching – Thought for the Day

"A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?" ~

• Oscar Romero

• St. Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador. He was assassinated on the 24th March 1980 whilst celebrating Mass. He was an advocate of justice for the poor and spoke out against torture and murder carried out by the military regime in El Salvador.

• He was Canonised a Saint on the 14th October 2018 by Pope Francis.

Deacon Des

World Mission Sunday 23rd October : This weekend we celebrate World Mission Sunday. Donations are collected at Masses worldwide and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas who share our faith. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Missio is responsible for coordinating World Mission Sunday and provides new, young or poor dioceses with the essential support they need on their journey to becoming self-sufficient.

They work through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly – on the basis of need. The money goes directly from England and Wales to the bishops in the mission territories – local church directly helping local church!

Envelopes are enclosed in this weeks Newsletter should you wish to donate. Thank you.

Across Charity: Across organises pilgrimages of a lifetime to the Catholic Marian Shrine of Lourdes in South West France for those needing special care. People who are sick and disabled are taken to Lourdes, accompanied by a doctor, nurses, a priest and helpers by Jumbulance: a unique vehicle with ambulance status, specially constructed to carry our VIPs. They currently have two vacancies, if you're interested in working with the charity please visit: [Jobs at Across - Across Charity | Take a journey, make a difference](#)

Parish News

All Saints Day: All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. We shall be holding a Mass on Tuesday 1st November at 7.30p.m. as well as a Mass for All Souls on the 2nd November at 12:30p.m. All are welcome.

Parish Office: Please note that the office is currently closed, reopening on Tuesday 1st November.

Visions Group: We would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Tuesday (from Tuesday 1st November) at 12:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel for details.



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Mass Times and Intentions

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 22 nd October	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Sunday 23 rd October <i>World Mission Day</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish Robbie Moser R.I.P. (E.Moser)
Monday 24 th October	❖	
Tuesday 25 th October	❖	
Wednesday 26 th October <i>St Cedd</i>	❖	
Thursday 27 th October	❖	
Friday 28 th October <i>St Simon & Jude</i>	❖	
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 29 th October	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Patricia O’Leary R.I.P. (S&K McDowall)
Sunday 30 th October	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parsih For the intentions of the Joy Family (P. Meadley)



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



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