

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 30th October 2022

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Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

'The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

Mass book (P. 157)

1st Reading:

Wisdom 11:22-12:22

Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 r.1:

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King

2nd Reading:

2 Thessalonians 1:11-22

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace be in heaven and glory in the highest heaven! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 160)

We will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Thought from Fr Liam... The Church is Synodal

Dear Friends

On his recent visit to Canada Pope Francis reflected once again that the *'Church is either synodal, or it is not Church'* - underlining without ambiguity that synodality is the norm for our way of being Church.

Well the Sunday before last in Rome, Pope Francis continued to *put his money where his mouth is*, as they say, by announcing a year-long extension of our current Synod process to October 2024. Pope Francis has decided to celebrate this final phase of the Synod process in two sessions, October 2023 and October 2024 so that the 'theme of a Synodal Church, because of its breadth and importance, might be the subject of prolonged discernment not only by the members of the Synodal Assembly, **but by the whole Church**...I trust that this decision' Francis concludes 'will promote the understanding of synodality as a constitutive dimension of the Church, and help everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel.' This is an invitation that we will return to later in the year here in **St Theresa's** as we continue our own parish synod journey.

At the heart of synod is listening - but why the fuss I hear you ask with all this listening?

The significance of listening across our tradition, from Jesus himself, through the scriptures and the many expressions of church that have followed, is manifestly evident – not that the Church's practice across the



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generations has always lived up to this sadly. Listening is a defining practice for a follower of Jesus and for what it means to be Church.

We are called to continually listen to each other within and beyond our Church, to the Holy Spirit echoing and breathing within each one of us - to those familiar voices, but also especially to those voices who have been quietened or silenced, marginalised or excluded by our church, for 'in all the baptised, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work.' Indeed as Dietrich Bonhoeffer insightfully observed 'we should listen with the ears of God, so that we can speak the Word of God.'

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of All Saints this week, we are reminded that each one of us through our baptismal vocation is called to holiness and to work together to help the kingdom of God's justice break through into our world.

Let us continue to listen for the least breath of the Spirit in the lives of each person we encounter and thus listen attentively to 'what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.'

I wish you all a very blessed and fruitful week...

Liam

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today we hear the story of Jesus and his encounter with another Tax Collector, Zacchaeus. A senior Tax official, he hears that Jesus is in town and hurries out to try and see him. Small in stature, Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree and sits in it in the hope of seeing Jesus.

As he sits there Jesus passes by and looks up and calls Zacchaeus by name and tells him to come down as he must stay at his house that very day. Zacchaeus is filled with joy and comes down and is so overjoyed at not being rejected by Jesus that he promises to sell half of his property and give it to the poor and to make amends to anyone he has cheated.

Our very own St Therese of Lisieux once wrote to her sister Celine that Jesus revealed much to them by making them climb a mystical tree and that Jesus invited them to come down as he wanted to stay at their house. Jesus in the same way invites us to come down quickly as he wants to stay at our house today. Jesus calls us by name and invites us to let go of the things that keep us from him. Things such as pride, anger, jealousy, and pre-occupation with the things of the world. If we focus on God, then we can listen intently as he calls us by name.

If we do so, then we can feel the same joy that Zacchaeus felt. However, we can only do this by climbing down and letting go of everything that damages our relationship with God. Abandoning the things that cause us to sin and to distance ourselves from God's mercy. Let each of us welcome Jesus into our homes every day of our lives.

Deacon Des



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Catholic Social Action – Thought for the day.

“If you are going to follow Jesus, you better look good on wood.”

Fr. Daniel Berrigan SJ.

Daniel Berrigan was an American [Jesuit](#) priest, [anti-war](#) activist, [Christian pacifist](#), playwright, poet, and author. He founded the Plowshares movement, which broke into a US Nuclear facility and damaged the nose cones of Nuclear warheads. He was arrested over 90 times for his activism and died at the age of 94 in 2016.

Deacon Des

Parish News

All Saints & All Souls: This week the Mass for All Saints will take place on Tuesday 1st November at 7:30p.m. The Mass for All Souls will take place on Wednesday 2nd November at 12:30p.m. All are welcome.

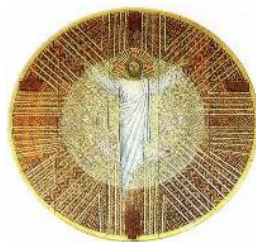
Adoration: Deacon Des will be holding a Holy hour from 09.30 am on Friday 4th November. All are welcome.

Confirmation Course 2022/2023: We are pleased to invite young adults who wish to be confirmed to register for the 2022/2023 course. Should we have enough interest we are planning to run the course over six sessions, one a month. Please contact Deacon Des or Clair in the Parish office via email or phone to be added to the waiting list. Thank you.

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.

Sacrament of Marriage: People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Fr. Liam / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Christmas Cards & Advent Calendars: We have a lovely selection of Christmas cards and some lovely Advent calendars. Our Repository is open to all whenever the church is open. Pop in and take a look.



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Mass Times and Intentions

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)
Monday 31 st October	❖	
Tuesday 1 st November <i>All Saints</i>	Mass: 7.30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed.</i>	
Wednesday 2 nd November <i>All Souls</i>	Mass: 12.30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed.</i>	
Thursday 3 rd November	❖	
Friday 4 th November <i>St Charles Borromeo</i>	Adoration: 09:30 a.m.	
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 5 th November	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Ryan Family R.I.P. (S. Keith)
Sunday 6 th November	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parsih Anne & Antonio Cattano R.I.P. (Jackson Family)



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



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