

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 6th November 2022

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Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

'He is God, not of the dead, but of the living.'

Mass book (P. 160)

1st Reading:

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

Ps 16:1. 5-6. 8. 15 r.15:

I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.

2nd Reading:

2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 163)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Thought from Fr Liam

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me...'



Please familiarise yourselves with the location of the fire exits, extinguishers, and assembly points at this church.

The tragic and scandalous consequences of the demonisation of difference is manifestly evident in the recent history of our past century and beyond, a demonisation that continues to scar and diminish humanity in our common calling to uphold the dignity and well-being of each and every person, who we profess are made in the image and likeness of God.

It is perhaps right therefore that so many people remain shocked and angry by the language that the current home secretary chose to use this past week in relation to our fellow human beings, language that is moral rather than just merely descriptive. Indeed, if we are not shocked and angry it is perhaps pertinent to ask why, as followers of Jesus, that we are not shocked by such rhetoric.

At the very foundation of our Christian faith, from our earliest scriptures through the life and ministry of Jesus and consistently throughout the teaching tradition of our Church, is the gospel imperative to welcome the stranger – indeed it would be a little pointless to be a follower of Christ if we did not strive to embrace this call to welcome the stranger in our own lives and wider community.

The good news of Jesus comes to change us, to transform our relationships and how we live so that welcoming the stranger is as natural as breathing air into our lungs.

'I was a stranger and you welcomed me...' (Matt 25)

Liam

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The end of the Church's liturgical year is fast approaching and with it the scripture passages become more eschatological, dealing with the end of this world and the arrival of the world to come.

The main theme of today's readings concerns the question of life after death, and what we believe the Resurrection means to our lives in the here and now.

In today's Gospel we see the group known as the Sadducees trying to lay a trap for Jesus based on his understanding of Jewish teachings around Resurrection. The Sadducees were a wealthy, powerful elite who controlled Temple worship. They were close collaborators with the Roman occupying force. They were extremely orthodox and only considered written scripture as carrying the weight of God's word. They only considered that the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures were authentic and considered the writings of the prophets as being inferior to the rest of the Hebrew scriptures.

The Sadducees believed in free will and that a person's personal actions played the deciding role in determining one's destiny. Significantly, they rejected the idea of the resurrection, as it was not a doctrine found in the Torah, as well as rejecting the idea of a Messiah who was to come as foretold by the prophets.

The question that the Sadducees ask Jesus concerning the resurrection of the dead and who had to marry whom was meant as both ridicule of the idea of resurrection and an attempt to trap Jesus by getting him to side either with the viewpoint of the Sadducees or the Pharisees. The question they asked Jesus was based around that law which was part of the Mosaic tradition, which said that if a man died childless, his brother must marry the widow and father children to ensure that the line of the dead man continued.

The Sadducees ask a hypothetical question concerning this law, around who in the afterlife would be the husband of a woman who had been married in succession to seven of her brothers-in-law, and had died childless nonetheless.



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Jesus turns the foolhardy attempt to trap him on its head. Jesus provides a lesson to the Sadducees from scripture itself concerning the proof of the resurrection and then goes on to explain that the afterlife is not simply a continuation of this world where people marry, but rather there is no longer any need for such things in the perfection of Heaven.

The quest to obtain eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven is what sustains us all during times of great difficulty as well as joy. Whilst it is very easy to become attached and reliant on the things of this world, we need to remember that everything in this life passes away and is temporary.

This is why we must strive to work for the good of the Kingdom of God, by seeing Christ in everyone we encounter. By not becoming discouraged by the things that happen in the world and in our Church that disappoints us and diverts us away from focussing on God.

We know that Jesus died for us and that he rose again to show us that death does not have the final word and should hold no fear for us. We may meet modern day Sadducees who dismiss our belief in God and the life of the world to come. If we do, let's see it as an opportunity to pray for those who hold such views and that they find their own way to God with our help.

Deacon Des

Catholic Social Action – Thought for the day.

“In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others.”

From the Apostolic Letter of St Pope Paul VI, ‘Octogesima Adveniens’, 14th May 1971.

Deacon Des

Parish News

Confirmation Course 2022/2023: We are pleased to invite young adults who wish to be confirmed to register for the 2022/2023 course. The Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday 7th December at 7pm in the church. Please contact Deacon Des or Clair in the Parish office via email or phone no later than Monday 5th December to be added to the course

RCIA Classes 2022/2023: Our RCIA course starts this Friday (11th November) at 7.30pm in the church.

Visions Group: A reminder that Helena Koupis from Anchor House, now called “Your Place”, will be visiting us on Monday 14th November at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre to talk with the Visions Group and Parish about the work they carry out. All are welcome.

Catenian Wine Tasting Evening: John O’Brien will be your host at the Wine Tasting event, open to all, held in the Parish Centre starting at 7.15p.m on Saturday 19th November. Please bring along your own food and nibbles. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from John, or contact Clair in the Parish Office, until 12th November. All monies raised will be divided equally between Grove Cottage and the Parish of St Theresa.



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Local Charity Appeal: A local charity that cares for asylum seekers, including the ones currently living at a local hotel, are looking for suitcases. Normal modern suitcases are required although not "retro" suitcases, no need for them to have wheels. If you can donate a case, please contact alanwheeler09@outlook.com

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.

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

Mass Times and Intentions

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 Parish Anne & Antonio Cattano R.I.P. (Jackson Family)
Monday 7 th November	❖	
Tuesday 8 th November	❖	
Wednesday 9 th November <i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	❖	
Thursday 10 th November <i>St Leo the Great</i>	❖	
Friday 11 th November <i>St Martin of Tours</i>	❖	
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C		
Saturday 12 th November	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Peter Bennett R.I.P. (M. Dalzell)
Sunday 13 th November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	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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