

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

Year A – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 27th November 2022

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Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

'Stay awake so that you may be ready.'

Mass book (P. 82)

1st Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9 r. 1:

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.

2nd Reading:

Romans 13:11–14

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and show us your saving help. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 84)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

A thought from Fr Liam...

Dear Friends

'Now is the time to act, urgently, courageously, responsibly...'

At the heart of Pope Francis' extraordinary encyclical **Laudato Si'** is his urgent plea for humanity to **wake up** to the climate emergency that is engulfing our world. He exhorts our world not only to a radical awakening and renewed vigilance to the signs and witnesses of the now self-evident crisis before us, but also importantly to an ecological conversion that will define our personal, structural, economic and political response as people of faith.

Such signs and voices were echoing loud and clear throughout the **COP 27** conference in Sharm El-Sheikh that ended last Sunday, voices that called the richer nations of the world into a deeper and more committed solidarity as the poorer nations continue to bear the greatest impact of the life changing consequences of the climate crisis – a crisis that continues to be fuelled by the choices of the richer nations of God's planet, that includes us in the UK. Indeed the global inequality in carbon emission remains staggering - with a citizen of the UK likely to exceed the annual carbon footprint of a citizen of Ethiopia, Uganda or Malawi within 14 days.



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

We have forgotten, reflects Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, that we are deeply interconnected – living as if only my life matters, with disregard not only for the generations to come but also for our sisters and brothers across the world today. We are not the centre of the universe or creation, indeed look what happens when we as human beings behave as if we are! It is time for us to **wake up** he urgently implores and remember that the flourishing of the whole web of life – of which we are but one part – is radically interdependent. We cannot thrive in isolation, it is only in common that we will flourish. A communion - a communion - into which we are summoned.

This Advent we are perhaps called more than ever to **awaken** to the signs of the times, to **awaken** to the 'cry of the poor and the cry of the earth, to **awaken** to God's call for us to 'live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with those who are poor.' The time to respond is now says our Pope, 'urgently, courageously, responsibly.'

- *How should we as a parish respond?*
- *How should we as a community of faith change in response to God's call?*

It is time, as Pope Francis concludes, for us to 'live wisely, think deeply and love generously.'

I wish you and yours a thoughtful and blessed first week of Advent,

Liam



This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Today marks the beginning of a new cycle in the Church's liturgical calendar. Every liturgical year begins with the Season of Advent. A time when we anticipate the coming of the Messiah. The word Advent comes from the Latin *Adventus* and means "coming". In Greek the equivalent word is "Parousia". Advent is a time of preparing for Jesus to enter our lives.

In the Gospel reading Jesus gives an urgent warning regarding his second coming. Everyone must remain awake and be prepared to ensure that we are not taken by surprise like those at the time of the flood in the days of Noah.

The Messiah will come to bring peace but with great authority. It is a time to rid ourselves of our disagreements and quarrels and to treat with disdain those things of this world which will all pass away. We must be ready; we must look forward to that time when we climb the mountain of the Lord.

Today, as we look around our world, we see injustice and greed, war, and destruction. There seems to be a distinct lack of the 'beating of swords into ploughshares. We may become discouraged and caught up in our own lives to concern ourselves with wider issues. However, when the Lord does come, he will want an account from each of us regarding what we did for the good of the Kingdom of God.



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As Christians we do not have the luxury of leaving justice to others. We are called to preach the Gospel, and if necessary, to use words. In other words, we need to show by our actions that we are true disciples of Christ.

Now at this time of anticipation and expectation, we need to remind ourselves that we do not know the hour or the day when the Lord will arrive. And we need to use every day we have to do all that we can to live out the Gospel values, so that we are ready to meet the Lord with joy. It is with joy that we should approach this season of Advent and use it as a time of renewal.

Deacon Des

Catholic Social Action – Thought for the day.

The bread which you do not eat is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked; the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot; the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor; and the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit.

Saint Basil the Great

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.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2023: Copies of this year's directories are now available to purchase from the Repository. Ringbound copies are £4.15 and Paperback copies are £2.95. Thank you.

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.

Pope Francis – Thought for the week

'Each crisis has a lesson to teach us; we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart.'

Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 232



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Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A		
Saturday 26th November	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Carmen Zuniga-Daly 1st Birthday Thanksgiving (A&J Zuniga Daly)
Sunday 27th November	Service of Word & Communion: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 28th November	❖	
Tuesday 29th November	❖	
Wednesday 30th November <i>St Andrew</i>	❖	
Thursday 1st December	❖	
Friday 2nd December	❖	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A		
Saturday 3rd December <i>Migrants Day</i>	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Pat O’Leary R.I.P. (M&T Rhead)
Sunday 4th December	Service of Word & Communion: 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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