

# Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

## *The Little Flower Messenger*

Year A - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ

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### **Gospel: John 1:29-34**

*'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.'*

**Mass book (P. 125)**

**1st Reading:**

*Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*

**Psalm 39:2.4. 7-10 r. 8,9:**

*Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.*

**2nd Reading:**

*1 Corininthians 1:1-3*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Alleluia, alleluia Blessing on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!*

### **A thought from Fr Liam...a time for peace-making**

Dear Friends

As we begin this new year amidst much uncertainty and as a world still entrenched in war, our Bishops invite us to celebrate Peace Sunday this weekend at the start of 'Ordinary' Time. I was reminded by a nurse this week of the wonderful poem by Daniel Berrigan, which sustains her and is so apt for us today and our journey ahead - for it provides us with the encouragement, challenge and inspiration we often need at the outset of a new year in troubled times. It's amazing who you meet and what you hear whilst waiting to see the doctor - the Holy Spirit is clearly alive and active!

*It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss -  
This is true: for God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,  
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;*

*It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction -  
This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.*

*It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever -  
This is true: a child has been born for us, a Son has been given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.*

*It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world -*



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***This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.***

*It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers -*

***This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.***

*It is not true that our hopes for the liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history -*

***This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.***

***So let us enter this year in hope, even hope against hope.***

*Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.*

***Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:***

*Jesus Christ, the life of the world.*

Daniel Berrigan SJ (adapted)

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful week

Liam

#### **Prayer for the week from CAFOD**

Open our hearts, To your tenderness.

Open our minds, To your understanding.

Open our lives, To your challenge.

We are one people, many nations, Building hope through steps for peace.

One world with many barriers, Breaking chains so we dance free.

One voice that shouts for justice, Shatters hatred, calls for change.

One God, one world, one people, Turning tables, share the feast.

Amen.

Linda Jones (CAFOD)

#### **This Week's Good News**

Dear Friends,

Over the last few weeks we have contemplated Jesus born in Bethlehem and adored by the Shepherds and the Magi. In today's Gospel we find ourselves once again on the banks of the river Jordan where John the Baptist is preparing a way for the coming of the Messiah born 30 years earlier. When John sees Jesus he says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world". For those who were stood listening to John, those words would have resonated deeply. It would have reminded them of the night that the paschal lamb had its blood shed in Egypt on the night the Jews were freed from subjugation and slavery.

Deeply rooted in the Jewish scriptures, the words of Isaiah, who had compared the suffering of the 'Servant of Yahweh', the Messiah, with the sacrificial lamb, would have left them in no doubt of the importance of the words that John had uttered. The description of Jesus as the Lamb of God is an extremely expressive description. The 16th Century Augustinian Friar and theologian and poet, Luis de Leòn said, "Lamb, referring to Christ, means three things: meekness of condition, purity and innocence of life, and satisfaction of sacrifice and offering."



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Christ came for Sinners and constantly reaches out to us. The Gospel's show very clearly the merciful attitude of Jesus. He was accused of being the friend of tax collectors and sinners and condemned for eating with them. He sat quietly whilst a mob dragged a woman caught in adultery before him demanding justice and then simply told them that the one without sin should cast the first stone. At this they turned and walked away.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector and the prodigal son, we see the powerful message of forgiveness and reconciliation once again. The story of his teachings and of his mercy shown to those the least thought of within society tells us that we can never lose hope of being forgiven when it is Christ who forgives. Sadly, we must ask ourselves if we truly mean it when we say we forgive those who have done us wrong, do we truly show mercy?

The example of Christ is the blueprint for how we should approach our daily lives. In a spirit of humility and vulnerability, and openness to those who are wounded by life. To go out and seek those with whom we would not want to ordinarily spend time with. In short, to truly listen and act upon the message of the 'Lamb of God'.

Deacon Des

### Our Parish

**Bishop's Stortford Catenians Burns Night Celebration:** This year's Burns Night celebration is open to all. Taking place on Friday 27th January at 7.00pm, with dinner at 8pm at the Great Hadham Golf Club. Tickets cost £32 per person and the dress code is Black Tie or Kilts. To book or if you have any queries, please contact Bertie via email at [bertie@dentistry19.co.uk](mailto:bertie@dentistry19.co.uk).

**Offertory 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£122	£331.10	£354	£807.10

### Our Diocese

**Emergency Winter Appeal:** Bishop Alan has written to parishes asking for their support of the Ukrainian Emergency Winter Appeal.

Ukrainians remain resilient despite the circumstances of the war, but they are in the throes of a harsh winter. For that reason, a new Emergency Winter Appeal has been launched to provide food packages for the most vulnerable on the frontlines and in recently liberated regions in East and South Ukraine which is suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis.

Funds can be remitted to:

**Account Name: Ukrainian Catholic Church Central Fund**

**Account Number: 20927317**

**Sort Code: 20-92-60**

Or by cheques made payable to **Ukrainian Catholic Church** referencing *Winter Appeal* in both cases. The address for cheques is Ukrainian Catholic Church in Great Britain, 22 Binney Street, London, W1K 5BQ.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023:** Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours ([tangney-tours.com](http://tangney-tours.com))



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**Could your New Year's resolution be to help build a better world through volunteering?** CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help develop our work in parishes or Catholic schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice throughout the diocese? Training and support are provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information or get in touch with [cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk)

### Our Wider Community

**Vocations Weekend for Women - Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life...3-5 Feb 2023, London:** The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at [fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

**Flame 2023, OVO Arena, Wembley, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Just before Christmas it was announced that **Cardinal Tagle** will be amongst the speakers at Flame. He has spoken to many, many thousands of young people all over the world, and he will be sure to inspire your young people.

He joins the **President of the Australian Bishops Conference, Salesian Archbishop of Melbourne, Tim Costelloe, SDB.**

Amongst the musicians are MOBO and Urban Music Award winner **Guvna B**, rising star **Faith Child**, Catholic band **One Hope Project** and soloist **Adenike**.

Flame Passes cost just £24/person if you book before 31<sup>st</sup> January. Right next to Wembley Stadium, the OVO Arena Wembley is wonderfully accessible by road, train and tube.

If you have any questions regarding Flame or would like a ticket, please speak with Fr Liam.

### Mass Times and Intentions

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Michael Henry Aldridge Jnr R.I.P. (T. Aldridge)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Peace Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m.	Eileen Ngeh
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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