

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) - 5th February 2023

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

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Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16 - *'You are the light of the world.'*

Mass book (P. 133)

1st Reading:

Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm 111:4-9 r. 4:

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia I am the light of the World, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!*

A thought from Fr Liam... walking, praying and working together

Dear Friends, this weekend the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Racial Justice Sunday. This is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year the theme reminds us that 'all are included in the mission of Christ and His Church' and that we are called to 'walk together, pray together and work together' as followers of Jesus. This reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church, and was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation'.

May the Lord strengthen and bless us all - each person created equally in the eyes of God; different faces, one humanity - as we walk, pray and work together in solidarity and communion:

God of our past, present and future,
you created each one of us in your image and likeness,
help us to recognise you in each person.

As we pray for end to suffering caused by racism
lead us this day to walk with one another,
pray with one another and work together,

so that we create a future based on justice and healing,
where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful week.

Liam



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Prayer for the week

Come, Holy Spirit,
show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

In the Gospel reading today, we see Jesus instructing his disciples in how they should be in carrying out their mission.

Jesus does this by using language that is both simple in its meaning and very direct at the same time. He provides them with the images of salt and light. In the time of Jesus, salt was a very important commodity. Salt was and is a preservative, providing both health and strength. Salt was also important as it is today for enhancing and flavouring dishes, for making them more appealing and useful. It brings out the true flavour and true goodness of whatever it seasons. Then there is the image of light. Light provides comfort in the darkness. A lamp is quite useless if it is lit and then covered up. The light is dampened, and the point of the light is that it fails to become a light if it is not out in the open where everyone can see it and benefit from its purpose of directing us in the right way.

The instructions given to the disciples, are given to us as well. It is important that we take these images to heart and be for everyone the salt and light. How do we do this? Just as salt seasons and nurtures goodness, we too must season one another and bring out the goodness in one another. We are called to do this everywhere. In our relationships with friends and relatives and with those to whom we find it difficult to get along with or like.

Whatever the situation is, be it anger, resentment and a need for punishment for those who have wronged us, we need to remember that our role is to preserve and strengthen each other. To encourage goodness and shine a light, and to banish the darkness and gloom. This is the meaning of what Jesus is describing to his disciples and to us today. If we are not like this, we become like salt that has lost its flavour and light that is covered up.

In the world today, there is so much darkness. The darkness of poverty and injustice, the darkness of hate and resentment and the desire to hurt and punish those who do us wrong. The need to see another in pain so we can feel justified is not what Jesus is instructing us to do. Christianity is a radical religion. It can seem to many in the world a religion of different extremes. Extreme in the fact that we believe in a God who humbled himself to become human, and by his example, revealed to us the never-ending fount of mercy that He makes available to us. Then there is the extreme in the belief that weak, flawed human beings can indeed love their enemies, do good to those who hurt them. To live as they have been created in the image and likeness of God. An image and likeness that does not demand retribution but rather compassion, love and understanding. This is the Gospel we profess to believe. This is the Gospel that we must ask ourselves, and really examine our consciences in doing so, whether we



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actually live this out, or rather do we think we are upright and justified when we do not follow this teaching, because we cannot and do not really try to love and forgive.

Why do we know this is the truth and harsh reality of our calling. Jesus explains this in the very last line of today's Gospel. "In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven." We must stand out before the people, so that everyone can see goodness in your acts.

The extent to which we centre our lives around values, around what is right, and how to act on that, simply because it is right, quite apart from whether it is comfortable, fun, profitable or popular, to that extent we will truly be the salt of the earth. We will season those whom we touch, and we will invite others to respond in the same way, with the goodness that is in them.

Deacon Des

Our Parish

Message from Deacon Des

Dear All,

After 17 years in this parish, a parish where my daughter made her first holy communion and then confirmation and where I was ordained to the Diaconate, it is time to move on. My wife has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Constable of Police Scotland and so we will be relocating to Scotland.

I will be here in the parish until my last Sunday which will be Easter Sunday. After that mass, there will be tea and cake in the parish centre so that I can get a chance to say goodbye to you all and thank you all for your love and support over the years. This parish will always be 'home' as far as I and my family are concerned and I hope to see you all again in the future, God willing.

Des

Association for the Propagation of Faith - Missio Red Boxes: Many of you have the traditional Red boxes at home which have not been collected for some time.

Can you please bring in your Red Box if you have one over this weekend (4th/5th February) and next weekend (11th/12th February) and collect an empty one in it's place. If you do not have a Red box already please feel free to take one.

Finally, John Richardson has been organising and collating the Red boxes for many years now, if anyone out there would like to take over from him please contact Annette Richardson on 07984 402 677

Offertory 29th January 2023: Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish.

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£111.00	£246.40	£ 380.63	£738.03

If you pay tax and would like any donations you make to our Parish to be Gift Aided, please email Angelo at stansted-giftaid@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details.



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Our Diocese

Journey to Knock with Bishop Alan in May: Bishop Alan Williams sm is to lead a diocesan pilgrimage to Knock Shrine in Ireland at the end of May. All parishes are invited to take part. Pilgrims will depart from Stansted on 29 May and return on 2 June.

The pilgrimage will include time at Knock Shrine, a tour of the grounds and museum and Mass in the Basilica with Bishop Alan; there will also be Mass at Fr Peyton Centre and in Ballintubber Abbey as well as a visit to Croagh Patrick, the holy mountain. Events and excursions will be interspersed with free time, and there will be entertainment at the hotel.

The cost of the pilgrimage is £699.00 per person and the package includes:

- Return flight from London Stansted
- 4 nights' accommodation on full board basis in 3* Knock House Hotel.
- All entertainment, excursions, and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative.
- Single room supplement of £150.00

For more information look at www.knockpilgrimages.com or contact Patricia Ronane on 01268 762 278/07740 175 557

Our Wider Community

Racial Justice Sunday 5th February 2023: This Sunday (5th February) marks Racial Justice Sunday. This is a day when the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: "All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together".

It reflects the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada in July 2022 when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'Justice, healing and reconciliation'.

Visit the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website for more information:

www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/

Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Saturday 4 th February	Reconciliation: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Thanksgiving for the Joy Family (Joy Family)
Sunday 5 th February <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Saturday 11 th February	Reconciliation: 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 th February	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Fr J. Garrett R.I.P (The Boland Family)



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