

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) - 12th February 2023

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

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Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 – ‘You have learnt how it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you.’

Mass book (P. 136)

1st Reading: *Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20*

Psalm Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17- *They are happy who follow God's law!*

18, 33-34 r. 1

2nd Reading: *1 Corrinthians 2:6-10*

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia Speak Lord, your servant is listening you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

Dear Friends

Amidst the horror of the earthquakes that have engulfed the peoples of Syria and Turkey let us come together as people of faith to pray and to act.

Fr Liam

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father,
we cry out to you for the peoples of Syria and Turkey
following the devastating earthquakes.

We pray for those killed, trapped, or injured;
for the rescue teams and emergency services;
and all now facing loss of loved ones, homes, or livelihoods.

Be with them in their agony; give wisdom to those in authority;
and guide the nations of the world in their response.

In the darkness of this tragedy, grant to them the light and comfort of your love;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LET US ACT TOGETHER

CAFOD Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal: CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters



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and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Turkey Syria Earthquake Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

"Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets."

Today, Jesus tells us His purpose is not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. Jesus does not do away with the Mosaic law but rather comes to add further meaning to the tried and tested teachings that the Jewish people were brought up on.

It is not the way of Christ to believe that we are righteous because we believe that we obey God's commandments, but in our hearts, we are full of hate and spite.

Its okay to hold grudges or to openly disrespect someone because they have offended us. No, it is not. If we believe this is the case, then we have distorted the Gospel.

We can deceive ourselves and others, by acting piously with care and compassion in our words but betray the true intent of our hearts by how we act or fail to act. God knows what is in our hearts.

A story is told about Fiorello LaGuardia, who, when he was mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression and all of WWII, was called by adoring New Yorkers 'the Little Flower' because he was only five foot four and always wore a carnation in his lapel. He was a colourful character who used to ride the New York City fire trucks, raid speakeasies with the police department, take entire orphanages to baseball games, and whenever the New York newspapers were on strike, he would go on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids.

One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. But the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. "It's a real bad neighbourhood, your Honour." the man told the mayor. "She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson." LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said "I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions--ten dollars or ten days in jail."

But even as he pronounced sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous sombrero saying: "Here is the ten dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant." So the following day the New York City newspapers reported that \$47.50 was turned over to a bewildered old lady who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren, fifty cents of that amount being contributed by the red-faced grocery store owner, while some seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, each of whom had just paid fifty cents for the privilege of doing so, gave the mayor a standing ovation.

In this story we see how the mayor of New York City maintains & defends the laws under his jurisdiction, not by merely keeping them himself, but much more than that by showing respect, even to the accused and being compassionate to her and helping her out at the same time.



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We need to obey God's Law, appreciating its basic principles: In obeying God's law and Church law, let us remember the two basic principles on which these laws are based, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect. In the first four of the Ten Commandments, we are asked to reverence God, reverence His holy Name, reverence His holy day, and reverence our father and mother. The next six commandments instruct us to respect life, one's personal integrity and good name, the legal system, another's property and another's spouse. Our obedience to these laws must be prompted by love of God and gratitude to God for His blessings.

We need to forgive, forget, and move toward reconciliation as soon as possible. It is not reconciliation when we say we forgive, but we still bear the grudge. When we still work to undermine or harm the other party. When God forgives, he forgives unconditionally, not with a desire to hurt someone who has shown remorse and wants forgiveness. We need to be true to God, to ourselves, and to others. We need to allow God's word of truth to penetrate our minds and hearts and to form our consciences, making us men and women of integrity.

Deacon Des

Our Parish

Yvan Van Driessche R.I.P.: Please pray for Yvan who died on Friday 10th February - May the risen Lord welcome him into his Kingdom. Please also keep his family in your prayers at this time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

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

Deacon Des writes: I would like to acknowledge and thank Deacon Anthony Rowley, a colleague and friend from Holy Cross Church in Harlow. In support of 'Your Place', formerly Caritas Anchor House, parishioners were asked to place the names of loved ones on the Christmas Tree at Holy Cross and make a donation. Holy Cross raised £235.94 for 'Your Place' from its 'Tree of Remembrance'.

Wednesday Group - St. Theresa's Wednesday Group celebrates its 21st Anniversary this month with a party on 15th February. The group have been meeting since 2002 and are open to all. They meet in the Parish Centre and start every meeting with the Rosary at 1 pm, you are all very welcome to join them after the meeting for a cuppa and a slice of celebration cake.

Churches Together: The Churches together Group are organising the collection of men's jackets for migrants in the local area. If you can help, please place your donation into the box located in the church entrance hall.



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

February Anniversaries: Tony Aldridge has kindly provided details of some Anniversaries during the first half of February:

- ❖ Friday 3rd February - Father Eric Bindloss Smith, Priest of Saffron Walden and looked after St Theresa's Stansted 1961-1969. He died in 1981.
- ❖ Saturday 11th February - The Anniversary of Father Donald Mills, the first Parish Priest of St Theresa's Stansted who died on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in 2013.
- ❖ Sunday 12th February - The Anniversary of Father John Garrett, the sixth Parish Priest of St Theresa's Stansted who died on the 12th February 2020.

Offertory 5th February 2023: Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish.

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£255.00	£ 429.95	£ 380.63	£ 1,065.58

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

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)
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		
Saturday 18 th February	Reconciliation: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 th February <i>Day for the unemployed</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Jane Bertaut R.I.P (B&E Quinn)
Wednesday 22 nd February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: 7:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Henry John Aldridge R.I.P (T. Aldridge)



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