

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A) - 26th February 2023

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ
Tel. 01279 814 349 • stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org • www.sttheresastansted.org
• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Hayes frliamhayes@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 814 349

Parish Deacon: Rev. Des Connors desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 07748 464 101

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org ☎ 01279 816 889/07734 273 969

Gospel: Matthew 4:4:	<i>Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.</i>
Mass book (P. 151)	
1st Reading:	<i>Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7</i>
Psalm: 50	<i>Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Romans 5:12-19</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i>

A thought from Fr Liam...

Dear Friends

As we mark the first Sunday in Lent, our parish community here in Stansted will begin to lay the foundations for our journey of renewal together as we listen attentively through our Census. As our world, our wider church and our communities are all immersed in a period of significant change, it is right that we as Church begin to respond and renew so that we can continue to bear witness to the risen Lord and pass on a living faith to future generations. It is a journey of renewal that we shall embark upon together over the months to come, and we will have different opportunities to come together and listen attentively, dream creatively, and discern wisely the shape and path of our renewal for today and tomorrow.

We shall journey in company with Pope Francis and the Universal Catholic Church through the global Synod process, and in company with Bishop Alan and our diocesan Church here in Brentwood, through our diocesan vision process. It is a journey through which we are invited to deepen our communion, expand our participation and enrich our mission. It will be a journey that I hope will bring much joy and hope to our parish as we continue to build ties and deepen relationships within our local community and also with our sisters and brothers in the wider world whom we are called to serve. It is a journey that will also be ongoing by nature, for we are a Church, as Vatican II reminded us, that is always in need of reform.

Whilst living through a time of such crisis and change can often bewilder us and foster uncertainty, it is also a time of *kairos*, in which we enjoy a graced opportunity to re-imagine how we might become a good and better Church in service of our world – and so respond to the call of Pope Francis ‘to build something different’ that is attentive to both the summons of ‘the gospel and human fragility.’ Let us be of good courage, assured of God’s promise to accompany and inspire us as we continue to journey together in faith and renew our Church.



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

As we pass the landmark of one year of war, I invite you to join in prayers for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. Let us pray for a just and peaceful end to this war and all war that continues to disfigure our world.

I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful first week of Lent,

Liam

Prayer of the Week from CAFOD

Loving God

Give us your peace and lead us to be united
with all people throughout the world.

Hear our prayer for the people of South Sudan.

Fill them with hope and strength

To build peace, trust and understanding.

And unite us all in wanting peace

So that everyone may live free from conflict.

Amen.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent provides us with a time of spiritual preparation. It is an opportunity to seek to conquer our temptations, and to look at the example provided for us by Jesus during his forty days in the desert, before he undertook his public ministry.

During Lent we especially look to our sins and the opportunity to repent and to renew our lives as we journey with Our Lord to the ultimate victory and the celebration of Easter and the resurrection. The readings for this weekend remind us that we are always faced with temptations. What we need to pray for is the continuing grace of God to conquer our temptations and practice the disciplines of prayer, self-control, fasting, almsgiving and charity. The Gospel accounts found in Matthew and Luke are very detailed and reveal the purpose of the Devil was to tempt Jesus away from his salvific mission to die for all of us, and to use his power to become, instead, a political messiah according to the Jewish expectation, and to avoid suffering and death. The temptations of Christ are presented as power, prestige and prosperity.

These temptations are relevant for all of us today. The temptation for power, prestige and prosperity are closely linked with wanting more of everything and the ability to control our own destiny and of others. Matthew presents the three temptations, 'turn stones into bread', 'throw yourself from the top of the Temple', and 'worship Satan.' These temptations of Christ are what many of us experience in our own lives. The temptation to satisfy personal needs by accumulating material possessions, the temptation to achieve miracles by using spiritual power not for the good of others but for our own benefit. Then there is the temptation to seek political power or personal prestige by using evil instead of good.

Jesus serves as a model for us in conquering temptations by strengthening himself through prayer, penance, and the active use of the Word of God. Lent is the perfect time to practice daily our spiritual exercises, to use Jesus as our model and to grow in grace.

Deacon Des



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

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

Yvan Van Driessche RIP: Yvan's coffin will be received into the church on Wednesday 8th March at 4.30pm. His Funeral service will take place on Thursday 9th March at 11.00am, followed by a burial at Henham Cemetery at 12.00pm.

Stations of the Cross: Stations will start on Friday 3rd March at 7.00pm and every Friday during Lent.

Lenten Reflections: Everyone is warmly welcome to our St Theresa's Lenten Reflections in our Parish Centre. These will be based on the Events of Holy Week taken from the Series "Jesus of Nazareth". We will meet on four consecutive Wednesdays 7.30 - 8.30pm on March 15th, 22nd and 29th and 5th April. Please join us as we journey with the Lord from Palm to Easter Sunday

St Theresa's Parish Fairtrade Weekend: We shall be holding a number of events over the weekend of 4th and 5th March after each of our Masses, in the Parish Centre. These will include Fairtrade tea and coffee, wine sampling, Traybake Cake Sale (made with Fairtrade ingredients), Raffle of Fairtrade products, a Quiz and Children's corner.

Please support this event however you can by coming along or volunteering to help. Speak with Frances or Anel for further information.

Offertory 19th February 2023: Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish.

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£ 128.30	£ 258.48	£ 397.50	£784.28

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.

Our Diocese

Bishop Alan rekindles 'a Vision of hope': The contents of Bishop Alan's Pastoral letter, read out to the Parish during the weekend Masses (11/12 February), and details of the Diocese vision can be found on the Diocesan website [Bishop Alan rekindles 'a Vision of hope' - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://Bishop Alan rekindles 'a Vision of hope' - Brentwood Diocese (dioceseofbrentwood.net)).

Caritas Brentwood: Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a container, topped with an Easter Egg, and then donated to your local foodbank



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

before Easter Sunday. All information, including the calendar itself, can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Our Wider Community

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 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>.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 3rd March 2023: This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope (located in the entrance of the church) or at <https://cafod.org.uk/give> and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

Pope Francis: Our Lenten journey is synodal: In his Message for Lent 2023, Pope Francis highlights the relationship between the Lenten journey and the synodal journey, which are both rooted in tradition and open to newness.

Personal and ecclesial 'transfiguration' is the goal of the ascetical journey of Lent, and similarly of the synodal process.

Pope Francis takes his inspiration from the Gospel account of the Transfiguration, proclaimed each year on the Second Sunday of Lent. As with the chosen disciples at the Transfiguration, Jesus "takes us with Him to a place apart" during the season of Lent.

"Lenten penance," he writes, "is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross."

This requires effort, sacrifice, and concentration, which are also requirements for the Synodal Journey; and therefore we can say that "our Lenten journey is 'synodal' since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master."

His full message can be viewed on the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website: [Pope Francis: Our Lenten journey is synodal - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://Pope Francis: Our Lenten journey is synodal - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk)

Mass Times and Intentions

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A		
Saturday 25 th February	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Sunday 26 th February	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Eileen Johnson R.I.P (B&E Quinn)
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A		
Saturday 4 th March	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Jane Bertaut R.I.P (S&K McDowall)
Sunday 5 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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