

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A) - 5th March 2023

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Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9: *His face shone like the sun.*

Mass book (P. 155)

1st Reading: *Genesis 12:1-4*

Psalm: 32 *May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.*

2nd Reading: *2 Timothy 1:8-10*

Gospel Acclamation: *Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!*

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

During Lent, while we prepare to commemorate the death and resurrection of Christ and celebrate the everlasting life he shares with us at Easter, we are invited to review our lives in the context of our Christian faith and the teachings of his Church. Also, we are encouraged to repent of our sins and to do penance for them so that we can renew our relationship with Christ. Hence Lent is characterised by prayer, fasting and penance.

But these penitential aspects of Lent are not intended to discourage us even if they challenge us severely. Indeed, the example of the Church's saints teaches us that those who are most disciplined and faithful to Christ are those who display the greatest joy. It is a mistake to connect penance with unhappiness. The opposite is true. In fact, our society is full of people who are pursuing hedonistic pleasure, which they mistake for happiness, and who are miserable in the pursuit of false happiness.

Lent is meant to be fundamentally a good experience because the established Lenten practices facilitate our ongoing conversion to the Gospel. So our prayer during Lent needs to be enthusiastically similar to the words spoken by Peter to Jesus during the Transfiguration: 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here' (Mt 17:4).

Lent offers us a yearly opportunity to undergo conversion from sin. It is only when we abandon sin that we can truly begin the pursuit of authentic happiness and experience the joy of the saints in our lives. Sin alienates us from God and, often, from other people. So it is imperative that we eradicate it from our lives.

Then we are drawn closer to Jesus and that is our purpose here on earth — to become close to Jesus because God made us to know, love and serve him in this world so that we may be happy



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with him forever in heaven. An appropriate prayer, therefore, is: It is wonderful for us to be here.

However, as we know, Lent is quite demanding and requires considerable spiritual discipline, especially if we are not in the habit of fasting and doing penance. It would be impossible for us to embrace wholeheartedly the challenges of the Gospel while depending on our own resolve alone. For that reason, we need to remember Jesus' consoling words to his close friends when they were frightened on the mountain: 'Stand up, do not be afraid' (Mt 17:7). We are never alone.

Our Lenten motto becomes: It is wonderful for us to be here. In addition, we are encouraged by Jesus' words: 'Do not be afraid.' They remind us that he is in control. Jesus also spoke these words to Peter in the boat when a storm raged all around them. He was teaching them – and us – not to fret but to trust in God's providence. A central message of Lent is that, at least metaphorically, we put on sackcloth and ashes, do penance for our sins and seek to make progress in the spiritual life, thereby uniting ourselves with the suffering Christ. By taking such practical steps, we can be sure of pleasing God and growing in true happiness and real joy.

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

Collection for Deacon Des: We will be having a retiring collection for Deacon Des after our Masses on the weekend of 18th and 19th March to express our thanks for Des' ministry here in Stansted.

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are a vitally important part of the liturgical life of a parish. It is a very important undertaking as it involves assisting the Priest/Deacon at Mass in distributing the Blessed Sacrament when necessary. Another important part of this ministry is the visiting of the sick in bringing Holy Communion to those who are unwell or unable to attend Mass.

We are looking for people who feel that they may be called to carrying out this ministry. If you are interested, in the first instance please make yourself known to Deacon Des and Fr Liam after Mass to chat things through.

A day of introduction and registering will be announced shortly, when those who wish to be considered will receive training and be put forward for commissioning by the Diocese. If chosen, and you feel that you would like to visit the sick to bring Holy Communion in their



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homes, then we will arrange for a DBS check to be completed which is mandatory for any ministers who visit people in their homes etc.

Yvan Van Driessche RIP: Yvan's coffin will be received into the church on Wednesday 8th March at 4.30pm. Please note that this is a private ceremony and for family only. His Funeral service will take place on Thursday 9th March at 11.00am, followed by a burial at Henham Cemetery at 12.00pm.

Parish Census 2023: For those of you that are yet to complete our Census forms, they are available at the Church entrance. Once complete, please return them box next to the forms. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross: Stations will start on Friday 10th 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: This weekend a number of events are taking place after each of our Masses in the Parish Centre. These 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.

Baptisms at St. Theresa's: Our next baptism meeting for those wishing to have their child baptised will be held on Wednesday 15th March at 7pm in the Church. Please email Clair in the Parish office to register. We look forward to seeing you.

Offertory 26th February 2023: Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish.

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£ 105.00	£ 254.10	£ 397.50	£756.60

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

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine: Last Few Places on Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29th May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 27th May 2023: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to join the trip please speak with Deacon Des or Fr Liam. Thank you.

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



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vision can be found on the Diocesan website [Bishop Alan rekindles 'a Vision of hope' - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://www.dioceaseofbrentwood.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 before Easter Sunday. All information, including the calendar itself, can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Foundation Governors: Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration. Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor, please email your expression of interest to victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org or call Victoria on Telephone: (01277) 265284.

Our Wider Community

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.

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>.

Mass Times and Intentions

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
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A		
Saturday 11 th March	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Jane Bertaut R.I.P (T&M Rhead)
Sunday 12 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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