

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A) - 12th March 2023

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Gospel: John 4:5-42:	<i>The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life</i>
Mass book (P. 158)	
1st Reading:	<i>Exodus 17:3-7</i>
Psalm 94:1-2:	<i>O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Romans 5:1-2, 5-8</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory and praise to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>

A thought from Fr Liam...Happy 10th Anniversary Papa Francesco

Dear Friends

White smoke, cheering crowds, then the long-awaited exclamation - Habemus Papam! We have a Pope! This was the cry that rang out across St Peter's square in Rome on the evening of Wednesday 13th March 2013. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio from the 'ends of the earth' - as he would say - had just been elected as the 266th Pope. The Cardinal Archbishop from Buenos Aires took the name Francis, which would of course foretell as with St Francis before him, the mission that God would call him to focus on - our brothers and sisters who are poor, our relationship and care with all creation and our wider environment, and our renewal of the Church. From the significant personal gestures of choosing to live simply in the Santa Marta guest house rather than the papal apartments, to the powerful ecclesial witness of solidarity and advocacy with those seeking asylum and refuge across our world - Pope Francis as the Servant of the Servants of God is not only a man of prayer whose actions match his words, but is a human being, a Christian, a priest through whom the love, justice and mercy of Jesus Christ shines brightly.

As we celebrate this 10th anniversary of the election of Pope Francis, we not only give thanks to God for his courageous and often prophetic ministry as Bishop of Rome, but give thanks for the renewed light that he has shone on the priesthood of all the baptised, on the ministry of each one of us as part of the holy people of God - called into encounter, listening, accompaniment and discernment on our shared journey of renewal. It is on this shared journey with each other and our Pope, reaching out to those lost and marginalised, that we will encounter our living God face to face, for as Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium* 'whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God. Whenever our eyes are opened to acknowledge the other, we grow in the light of faith and knowledge of God.'



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

Happy Anniversary Papa Francesco – Ad multos Annos!

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

Liam

Prayer of the week from Pope Francis

Lord, make us bearers of hope,
so that where there is darkness, your light may shine,
and where there is discouragement, confidence in the future may be reborn.

Lord, make us instruments of your justice, so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish, and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.

Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom, together with migrants and refugees
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.

Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Our readings this week focus on the life-giving effects of water and the new life given to us in Baptism. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism as represented by water. The Sacraments of the Church and the Word of God give us the living water of faith and grace, provided for us each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. The beautiful account in today's Gospel of the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well reminds us that we should always thirst for the living water which only God can provide.

In the first reading we see the people of Israel complaining about being thirsty and God providing life giving water from the rock at Horeb. The place where this occurred was called Massah and Meribath and is the Responsorial Psalm, which reminds us to not harden our hearts and to doubt God, but to respond to hardship through prayer, fasting and works of mercy, which will enable us to receive the life-giving water from the rock of our salvation. St Paul tells us that Jesus poured the life giving gift of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and died for us even though we were not worthy.

In the Gospel, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well, a woman who was on the margins of her own society, ostracised and thought of as unclean. Yet despite this, Jesus gives her the opportunity to receive the life-giving water that only He can provide. A chance for her to revive her life and receive the fullness of life she had lost. This woman rejected and despised is given the gift of life-giving water and also witness to the revelation of Jesus as the source of this life giving water.

This account tells us that we need to be witnesses to Christ just as the Samaritan woman was. To go out to those places where people hide away for fear of ridicule and rejection, to stand up for truth and justice in our world and to invite people to 'come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did', Jesus the Christ.

Deacon Des



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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 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.

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 to the box located next to the forms. Thank you.

Stations of the Cross: Stations will be held at 7.00pm every Friday during Lent (17th, 24th and 31st March).

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

Fairtrade weekend - Thank you!: What a fantastic Fairtrade Fortnight we had! Thank you very much to all those who helped with the Fairtrade event Thank you to all those who came, bought raffle tickets, cakes and stayed to chat. A lovely social Parish occasion. We raised an amazing £270.96! The total has been sent to the Fairtrade Foundation for projects to help farmers and their families.



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Raffle tickets that won and were unclaimed were: 698, 656, 74, 99, 85, 101, 686. Prizes can be claimed at the entrance (porch) of the church or send an email to family@zunigadaly.com

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

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£102.00	£ 199.60	£ 397.50	£699.10

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

BCYS and Walsingham House Lenten Revision Retreat, 25th -26th March 2023: Fed up with the library or revising in your room? Get a change of scenery at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this Lent to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and some peace and quiet.

- ❖ Reflect during times of prayer
- ❖ Enjoy socialising with friends and the team
- ❖ Revise alongside friends and the Walsingham House team members.
- ❖ Use the chapel for times of quiet reflection
- ❖ All for just £35!

Open to all in years 11 - 13, Visit www.bcys.net

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.

Mass Times and Intentions

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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A		
Saturday 18 th March	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls R.I.P (J&C Welsh)
Sunday 19 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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