

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A) - 26th March 2023

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Gospel: John 11:1-45:

I am the resurrection and the life.

Mass book (P. 170)

1st Reading:

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms 129 r. 7:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

2nd Reading:

Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

A thought from Fr Liam...

'Many people want to return to normality ...but the pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse. We must come out of it better, Today we have an opportunity to build something different.' (Pope Francis, General Audience, August 2019)

Almost exactly three years ago on 27th March 2020 a frail yet determined Pope Francis emerged into the midst of a rainswept and empty St Peter's Square to pray for and with a world engulfed in the storm of the Covid-19 pandemic. He reminded us that the Lord is 'calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing' - not as a time of God's judgement, but a time of 'our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not...a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.'

As we journey through Lent in 2023, three years after this extraordinary evening in Rome, I wonder how we are doing? For in the midst of the pandemic, and the disruption and trauma that it brought to our lives and our world, we perhaps each committed both personally and as a church, to become something different, to reshape our lives, to cast off all those things we had discovered that were really not that important, all those trivialities that were fleeting and often hindered, rather than helped, our own wellbeing and the flourishing of our world. Much has happened since March 2020 in our own lives, in our Church and the wider world, but the wisdom and truth that we each rediscovered and collectively discerned during Covid remains potentially pertinent for the ongoing renewal of our lives and that of our world and church.

What is it that we rediscovered and discerned during Covid about deep and lasting happiness, in our lives with God and each other, that we have yet to put back at the heart of our journey and our Church? Perhaps it's time for us all to remember and recommit to living anew the wisdom that God uncovered within us during the Covid pandemic, and 'choose what matters'



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from 'what passes away'; to separate once again 'what is necessary from what is not' on our shared pilgrimage of life.

'When the storm passes, I ask you Lord, that you return us better, as you once dreamed us.'

I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful fifth week of Lent.

Liam

Prayer of the week from CAFOD

Plant in us, Lord,
seeds of solidarity, so that, rejoicing in your gifts,
we may cherish your presence in each other and all creation.

Root us, Lord,
in compassion and justice. Pour your Spirit down like gentle rain,
softening our hearts, washing away division and selfishness.

Cultivate in us, Lord,
attentiveness to your call. Give us hope to dream of a better world
and strength to play our part to make it a reality.

Grow in us, Lord,
your ways of peace and courage, so that in this time of Lent,
we may bear witness to your love, revealed to us in Jesus.

Amen.

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

With just two weeks now until Easter, we have reached the climax of the three long Gospel passages from St. John, read successively on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, In turn we have heard John's account of the meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well, the giving of sight to the man born blind, and today the raising of Lazarus. These passages have been specifically chosen for the instruction of those preparing for reception into the Church according to the Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults, and in our parish, we have Helen and Maxi. On each of these Sundays, after the homily, the Rite of Scrutiny takes place. The candidates are prayed over in community. Last week they received the Creed, the basis of what we believe as Catholics. This weekend they will receive the Lord's prayer.

The raising of Lazarus in today's Gospel is a revelation, a sign, of the power that Jesus has over death. John explains this good news of salvation through a long narrative which involves not just Lazarus but also on the relationship Jesus has with the sisters of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. In this account we witness the grief of the sisters at the loss of their brother, but also, we see confusion from them as they do not understand why in their view, Jesus did not act to prevent Lazarus from dying. Just as Jesus cured the son of the official lying sick in Capernaum with just a word, they do not understand why Jesus could not have done the same for Lazarus. However, Jesus tells them why he allowed Lazarus to die: 'so that you will see the glory of God'. This glory is revealed when God reaches into the depths of despair and turns it into perfect joy. This glory is revealed in the power that Jesus has over death.



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In today's Gospel we see Jesus at the tomb of his friend: distressed, anguished, weeping. This a sign and foretaste of his own passion, which is clearly imaged in the details of the burial cave with a stone over its entrance, and in the burial cloths of Lazarus. God's response to our suffering is seen in Jesus: in his tears, his prayer, his grief, and in the anticipation of his own death. So the tears of Jesus are a revelation, and also a permission. We are supposed to feel pain, and to hate it. We are also allowed to be baffled at God, and even angry with him, when dreadful things occur. All that is summed up for us next Sunday, in the Passion of Jesus. But then we have the Sunday that follows: the centre of our year, and of our life; the focus of our hope, and our joy; the ultimate answer to all life's questions: which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Deacon Des

Our Parish

Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: A morning of renewal and training will take place on Saturday 1st April at 11am in the Church for all existing and new Eucharistic ministers. 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. Please do speak with Fr Liam or Deacon Des.

Easter Flowers: We shall be holding a collection this weekend and next for our Easter flowers. Should you wish to donate please put your donation into an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers'. If you wish your donation to be gift aided, please specify this on the envelope and place into the basket when leaving the church or through the Presbytery door. Thank you.

Envelopes for Gift Aid donations: The new tax year envelopes are now ready for collection in the church foyer.

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 or speak to him after Mass.

If you are a Gift Aid donor and your circumstances have changed such that you no longer wish to donate via the Gift Aid scheme, please let us know using the same email account (above) so that we can reallocate your envelope.

During these difficult times, we recognise that the financial impact on some parishioners can be significant. Your continued support for our Parish is appreciated.

A walking pilgrimage from London via Stansted Mountfitchet to Walsingham: On Friday 14 April a group of pilgrims will pass through Stansted Mountfitchet as they walk the newly revived pre-Reformation pilgrim route from London to Walsingham. Parishioners at St Theresa of Lisieux are invited to join them for the day, as they walk on via Newport to Saffron Walden. The walk will be led by Andy Bull, who has worked with a group of pilgrim volunteers to re-establish a route that was once the most important path in the country.

If anyone would like to walk them for the day and would like more details, please email Andy at andybull@gmail.com.

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



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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

Stations of the Cross: The last Stations will be held at 7.00pm on Friday (31st March).

Lenten Reflections: Everyone is warmly welcome to our St Theresa's Lenten Reflections in our Parish Centre. We will have two more meetings on Wednesdays 29th March and 5th April at 7.30pm. Please join us as we journey with the Lord from Palm to Easter Sunday

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

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£175.00	£ 332.68	£ 391.25	£ 898.93

Baptism at St Theresa's: You are welcome to Baptise your child here at St Theresa's. As part of our preparation for baptism here at St. Theresa's Fr Liam will come to visit you at home to set you at ease, answer any questions that you might have and to begin to get to know you.

Each family is also invited to attend the necessary baptism meeting in Church before their child's baptism, during which they have a chance to meet other families preparing for baptism and to explore the rite of baptism together. Clair, our parish administrator, can let you know the date of the next baptism meeting, and the date is always published in advance in our parish newsletter.

Baptisms in our parish are celebrated once a month during the parish Mass at 6 pm on Saturday or 10am on Sunday - Fr Liam can confirm the available upcoming dates when you meet with him.

As a first step we look forward to welcoming you to Mass at the weekend and please introduce yourself to Fr Liam and our parishioners after Mass.

Mass Times and Intentions

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A		
Saturday 25 th March	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Deceased members of the Braeckman Family R.I.P (F.Braeckman)
Sunday 26 th March	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A		
Saturday 2 nd April	Confessions: 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bridget McCreanor R.I.P (S.Wood)
Sunday 3 rd April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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