

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (Year A) – 2nd April 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 26:14–27:66: <i>The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Mass book (P. 182)	
1st Reading:	<i>Isaiah 50:4-7</i>
Psalm Ps 21:8-9:	<i>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</i>
2nd Reading:	<i>Philippians 2:6-11</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!</i>

A thought from Fr Liam...our journey through Holy Week

Dear friends, as we gather this weekend for the celebration of Palm Sunday, we begin our journey together through Holy Week in which we will commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a most extraordinary week in which we are invited to enter into the heights and depths, the grief and sadness, the joys and hopes of this deeply moving and profound experience as the resurrection unfolds in our midst. From the fervour and excitement of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, through his celebration of the last supper and the example of the washing of feet that he gives us as disciples, to his agony in the garden through his trial and painful journey to Calvary and his execution on the Cross. As his anointed body is laid to rest in the tomb, we await with his disciples and friends the new life of resurrection.

I very much warmly encourage you to come along and share in all our parish liturgies this week that celebrate this moving and profound journey, especially in the three days of the Triduum, which begins on **Holy Thursday** evening with the *Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm* in which we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist, which continues with the *Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00 pm* on **Good Friday**, and reaches its climax in the *Celebration of the Easter Vigil and the first Mass of Easter at 8.00 pm* on **Holy Saturday night**. Let us journey together and deepen our communion with each other and the Lord this Holy Week as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

As we begin Holy week let us **pray especially for Pope Francis** who was taken to hospital earlier in the week, may the Lord bring him healing and strength as he continues to shepherd his Church in service of our world.

I wish you and yours a blessed and peaceful journey through Holy Week,

Liam



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Prayer of the week from CAFOD

Jesus, in the darkness of the tomb,
you were surrounded by love, by grief and by fear,
as your body was prepared for burial.

Walk with us.

May we feel the comfort of your love for us.
And may we turn outwards to share that love with others,
with the same generosity and gentle loving kindness that you showed to all.

Walk with us Jesus.

Amen.

Linda Jones/Cafod

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

The Church celebrates this Sixth Sunday in Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday – “Palm Sunday in the Passion of the Lord,” as the Ordo has it. It is on Palm Sunday that we enter Holy Week, welcoming Jesus into our lives and asking Him to allow us a share in His suffering, death, and Resurrection. This is the time of the year when The Church stops us so that we can remember and relive the events which have brought about our redemption and salvation. The Holy Week liturgies present us with the actual events of the suffering, dying, and rising of Jesus.

These liturgies enable us to experience in our lives, here and now, what Jesus went through then. Further, in all that we are commemorating and reliving during this week of Jesus' Passion and death, we are also reviewing the quality of our ongoing dying to ourselves and our sinfulness and begging that by our penitence and His Mercy, we may rise in Him healed, reconciled and redeemed. Like Jesus, we must freely lay down our lives for Him, by actively participating in the Holy Week liturgies. In doing so, we are allowing Jesus to forgive us our sins, heal the wounds in us caused by our sins and the sins of others, and transform us more completely into the image and likeness of God.

In these ways, we will be able to live more fully the Divine life we received at Baptism. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgies will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become “holy” for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. During this week of the Passion – passionate suffering, passionate grace, passionate love, and passionate forgiving – each of us is called to remember the Christ of Calvary and then to embrace and lighten the burden of the Christ Whose passion continues to be experienced in the hungry, the poor, the sick, the homeless, the aged, the lonely, and the outcast. Today's liturgy combines two moments seen in contrast: one of glory, – the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem – the other of suffering: the drama of his two unjust trials ending in his condemnation, crucifixion, and death. Let us rejoice and sing as Jesus comes into our life today. Let us also weep and mourn as his death confronts us with our sin. The African American song asks the question, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they



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nailed Him to a tree?" The answer is yes, a definite yes. Yes, we were there in the crowd on both days, shouting, "Hosanna!" and later "Crucify Him!"

Deacon Des

Our Parish

Johnny Ferns & Michael Hughes RIP: Please pray for Johnny and Michael who both died recently. May the Lord welcome them into his Kingdom. We keep them both and their families in our prayers at this time.

Easter Flowers: We shall be holding a collection this weekend 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.

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

Lenten Reflections: Everyone is warmly welcome at the last of our St Theresa's Lenten Reflections in our Parish Centre this Wednesday (5th April) at 7.30pm. Please join us as we journey with the Lord from Palm to Easter Sunday.

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

Gift Aided	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
£55.50	£288.61	£391.25	£735.36

Helpline: Helpline is Stansted's Community Care Service which provides assistance with transport to medical appointments, shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. They are in urgent need of more volunteer drivers. If you can assist so that they can continue to help Stansted residents, please contact Anne Wilkinson (Chair) on 01279 647 131. Thank you.

Our Diocese

Mass for Migrants with Bishop Alan - 1st May 2023: "The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to a celebration of the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday, 1st May 2023, at 12pm. Banner bearers are invited to gather at St Bonaventure's Secondary School at 11:15am for refreshments and preparations ready for the banner procession at 12pm.

The Mass will be hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate E7 9QB with **Bishop Alan Williams, sm** as celebrant and Fr Dominic Howarth preaching.



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You are kindly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses."

Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? Come to the first Caritas Brentwood networking day, **Saturday 10th June, 10am – 2.30pm, at Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster** (on C2C & District lines, close to M25 & A127). Hear national speaker **Raymond Friel, OBE**, Chief Executive of the Catholic Social Action network. This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

Mass Times and Intentions

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A		
Saturday 1 st 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 2 nd April	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
HOLY WEEK - YEAR A		
Monday 3 rd April	Lent Reconciliation Service: 7.30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Tuesday 4 th April	Holy hour: 10.00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Wednesday 5 th April	Mass of Chrism, Brentwood Cathedral: 11.00 a.m.	
THE EASTER TRIDUUM- YEAR A		
Thursday 6 th April <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30 p.m. <i>Watching at the Altar of repose & concluding with Night prayer at 10.00 pm</i> <i>Livestreamed</i>	John Ferns R.I.P (B&E Quinn)
Friday 7 th April <i>Good Friday</i>	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion: 3.00 p.m. Prayer around the Cross: 7.30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Saturday 8 th April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	The Office of Readings & Morning Prayer: 10.00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Celebration of the Easter Vigil & first Mass of Easter: 8.00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Deacon Des (F. Margaret)
THE SEASON OF EASTER - YEAR A		
Sunday 9 th April <i>Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



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