

The Little Flower Messenger

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

12th November 2023

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ ☎ 01279 814 349

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Mass book (P. 152)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9

Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming Alleluia!

Our Gracious and Prayerful Thanks to ALL VOLUNTEERS: On behalf of the parish, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all Parish Volunteers. We would struggle to survive if the services of these Volunteers were withdrawn. We are motivated by our Faith in the Risen Lord in all that we do or accomplish. Ultimately, it is God we serve. Two of the Biblical Texts which underpin our call to perform voluntary work, refer to God who will judge us at the end of time by recalling what we did and how we did it, plus what we did not do that we should have done. "...whenever you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me (Mat 25:40)...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do it to me (Mat 25:45).

I will try to list some of the work that our kind and generous volunteers do for us: **1)** Counting and Banking the Sunday Collection and donations. **2)** Hoovering and Cleaning the Church. **3)** The Cleaning and Caretaking of the Hall. **4)** Cleaning the windows and doors of the Church and Hall. **5)** Looking after the Church grounds by mowing the grass. **6)** Assisting in different Liturgical Actions during the Mass. **7)** Taking Holy Communion to the sick or housebound. **8)** Looking after the Sacristy. **9)** Serving the parish by giving the time and skills required in a parish group or committee. **10)** Doing the Teas or Coffees after Mass. **11)** Helping with Children's Liturgy, **12)** Supporting/Starting a prayer group. **13)** Helping with the Catechesis and Sharing your faith with those preparing to receive the Sacraments. **14)** Doing the Church flowers and decorations. **15)** Doing the ministry of greeting and welcoming. **16)** Cutting the hedge, collecting the leaves and rubbish etc. **17)** Checking the status of our heating, lights and water. **18)** Health and Safety jobs. **19)** Visiting fellow parishioners. **20)** Offering to drive someone who needs a lift. Etc.

THE USE OF OUR PARISH CENTRE (HALL): Following my Newsletter Message about Parish Finances being in the red, it is my intention to offer hospitality to parishioners by letting them use our Parish Hall and request donations in return. Our parish hall is in real danger of closure at any time for being a white elephant. I would like to encourage each one of us to make use of our Parish Centre (Hall) in a way that will generate some income. Please get in touch with me if you would like to use the Hall so that I may explain further details and restrictions in place. A lot of Parish Halls in our diocese are closed. Many Parishes are struggling to pay for the upkeep and repairs/maintenance of the Hall. Our Parish Centre does not have funds and there is a real danger



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of it being closed at any time. For example, we urgently need a new boiler for the Hall and I have a quote of £6000. I would like to start a Hall Fund (Hall Account) as soon as possible. I am very grateful to a parishioner who has given me a donation of £500 for the Hall. Please support me in this effort and your donations will be gratefully received and very much appreciated. The Diocesan levy (tax) of 26.5% will not apply to Donations given for the Hall. Thank you and may God Bless you.

We pray for the Sick and all who may need our prayers at this time especially Joanne Dellow and Stephen Craston. Please let me know if you would like your name to be included here.

Our Next Picnic Mass will be on Saturday 2nd December at 11.30 am: All children, their parents and grandparents are most welcome at this Mass. The last picnic Mass was very successful. We talked about starting the Children Liturgy at Mass, Monthly Children/youth Mass, Children/youth helping at Christ the King Mass, Children wearing crowns at Christ the King Mass, starting a parish play group with parents/grandparents, and starting to prepare for a Nativity Play at the Christmas Children Mass. Thank you all for your help and support in these endeavours.

The Month of Holy Souls: Thank you so much to those who have given me their November dead list. I am also grateful for the Mass intentions and Offerings you have given me. In November, the Church invites us to pray for the departed souls including, but not limited to, our departed parishioners and relatives. Please take Holy Souls envelopes for those who wish to book Mass intentions for their departed relatives. Thank you.

Month of Holy Souls - Sanctuary Candles: We are pleased to offer the chance to purchase a candle to be lit in loving memory of your departed loved ones. Each candle will have a printed label with the names of your departed loved ones on it. Each candle costs £5 and will remain lit for seven days. The sheets to "book" a candle are inserted in this week's newsletter and available on the table as you come into Church. Could we ask that those who wish to book a candle please fill in this sheet and return it and the payment to Fr Clement or Clair. Thank you.

Parish Finances: I have been touched by your very kind and generous response following my appeal to consider increasing your contributions, for those who may find it possible. Given the rising cost of living and many families struggling, it is fairly obvious the parish finances are affected. I am very touched and forever grateful for your generosity and support. For those who can give their contributions online, please take the Standing Order forms which are in the Church entrance.

Two urgent Parish Projects: Following the recent Finance Committee meeting, I learned that we do need a New Boiler for the Parish Hall. We are required to have a minimum of three quotes and are currently looking for quotes in order to establish how much it will cost. The second project is Built-in Sacristy Cupboards so that vestments may be kept well. I have been told that this project was always intended to be done and the drawings are available. I am looking for joiners to provide the quotes. I will keep you informed with the progress.

Tea and Coffee after Mass in the Hall: THANK YOU to one and all who remain behind to spend a little more time together sharing tea or coffee every Sunday after Mass. No problem if you are unavailable this Sunday because of other commitments, but please do plan to share some time after Mass with fellow parishioners at least twice a month. I would like to appeal for more volunteers to help me with this endeavour. We need two volunteers per Sunday to help with the preparation. Please have a look at the Rota in the entrance to see when you are able to volunteer. The more the merrier! Thank you for your help.

Tea and Coffee Rota: Suzanne Shutes has kindly agreed to look after the Rota for Tea/Coffee after Sunday Mass. On behalf of the parish, I am very grateful for her help and support. If for any



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reason you are unable to turn up on the day you signed up for on the rota, please be in touch with Suzanne at 07732 627 382 or via email suzanne.shutes@btinternet.com.

Mass Intentions: As a personal touch with you and getting to know you individually, it may be helpful if you personally give me your Mass intentions. You can speak with me about this before or after Mass. Mass intentions envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Hopefully with time, I will know each one of you by name! I think I already know about 10 parishioners by name.

The Parish Website: We have a beautiful website and I am very grateful to ALL who have assisted to develop and support it. It just shows we have a wonderful volunteering spirit to support the parish. As I take responsibility for all data and information on the website, administrative access to the website will be limited and controlled. Please send all the information to me to approve before I upload it on the website. Please use this email to send your requests: stansted@brcdt.org

St Theresa's wallet/purse prayer card: St Theresa's prayer card, which is meant to fit in your phone case or cover and in your purse or wallet, is available for you all. It is Fr. Clement's gift to everyone as we all try to rediscover this great Doctor of the Church who has been given to our Parish as our patron, protector and prayer-partner. Extra copies of these prayer cards and Our Lady's medals can be found in Fr. Clement's Basket in the Church porch.

Christmas Cards: We have a few different varieties of Christmas Card available in our repository. As one of the ways to fundraise for the parish, please consider buying our Christmas cards after Mass. Thank you.

Encounter: The next meeting takes place on Friday 17th November at the Windhill Churches Centre, Bishop's Stortford. We will be looking at 'The Art of Advent' inspired by the book by Jane Williams. 10.00am Coffee; 10.30am meeting opens; 12.30pm lunch. Please bring food to share. Day ends 2.00pm. All are welcome for all or part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060 or 816916.

Teams4U Christmas Boxes: Thank you to all who contributed so generously towards the Christmas Boxes for the children of Ukraine. These will mainly be distributed through the refugee camps along the border, as it is still not easy to enter the Ukraine. The Wednesday Club, together with other parishioners and residents of the village, filled 167 boxes. The Quiz, which was held some weeks ago, raised enough money to pay for their travel costs. Thank you also to those of you who spent many hours knitting hats and teddy bears. We are very lucky to have so many talented and generous people supporting this good cause. Thank you all, Brian, Eileen and Helen.

Missio Red Boxes (formerly APF Red boxes): Could all red box holders please return their Missio Red box next weekend (18th /19th November) or the following weekend (25th /26th November). Should you wish to know how much your box contained please place your name, address and email on the label fixed to the underside of the box. Please take a new box with you for the coming year. You will find these on a table in the entrance. If anyone else would like to take a box to support Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, then please do. I will be in the entrance of Church to collect full boxes and distribute new boxes. Many thanks, Dave Horton.

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
05/11/2023	£145.00	£188.59	£400.00	£733.59

Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish and the special collections.

Everyone is invited to the Celebration of the holy Mass this week as per the schedule here below:



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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 11th November	Mass: 9:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list) Holy Souls: For the departed Bishop Stortford Catenian Members and their relatives & friends.
Sunday 12th November <i>(Remembrance Sunday)</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list) For Mick Bennett R.I.P (by Keith & Steph)
Wednesday 15th November <i>Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Thursday 16th November <i>St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Friday 17th November <i>Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Date	Mass Time	Intention
Saturday 18th November	Mass: 9:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list) Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Sunday 19th November <i>(World Day of the Poor)</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list) Brian & Eileen Quinn's Intentions (Holy souls)



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