

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19th November 2023

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

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Mass book (P.155)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalm 127: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown. Alleluia!

HALL FUND: I thank you immensely for generous donations I have received for the Hall Fund- so far £1000 has been received but we still need much more. Our Parish Centre does not have funds and there is a real danger of it being closed at any time. For instance, we urgently need a new boiler for the Hall and I have a quote of £6000. **Please support me in this effort. Your vital donations will be so gratefully received and very much appreciated.** The diocese has helped me to successfully set up the Hall Fund without having to open a new bank account. This is the message I received: "*In respect of being able to track income and expenditure for the parish hall- this can be easily done by using a designated Fund for the Parish Hall. A 'Hall Fund' has been set up for the parish. This means that any donations received, or payments made in respect of the hall can be recorded on the parish finance system using the 'Hall' fund instead of the general fund. This allows separate income/expense reports to be produced for the Hall, but also allows consolidated reports to be produced when reporting at year end- therefore no need to set up additional accounts within the chart of accounts for the hall.*"

First Holy Communion Lessons: We have started our First Holy Communion Lessons for 2023/2024, with the First Holy Communion Mass taking place on Sunday 2nd June 2024. Any new candidates who wish to join our current programme will be asked to start the lessons in September next year with the new group of candidates. The dates to enrol the 2024/2025 programme will be announced after Christmas. We would look to enrol candidates before the start of the summer 2024 holidays with lessons starting in September 2024. On behalf of the parish, I am sincerely grateful to Bernadette who is doing so much in leading the First Holy Communion Programme.

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



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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.

We pray for the Sick and all who may need our prayers at this time especially Joanne Dellow, Stephen Craston, Rachel Taylor and Fr Francis Coveney. 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's 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.

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. Holy Souls envelopes are available for those who wish to have Mass offered for their departed relatives.

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 on it 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 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 with 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 or give directly via our Parish account number: 41017519, Sort Code: 401322,** and account name: Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas - please note that these bank details are intended for parishioners only and so they will not be available online.

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 for 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.



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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 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. I hope you do not mind but I have asked Suzanne to make calls to those who have indicated that they are happy to help.

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 entrance of the Church.

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.

Missio Red Boxes (formerly APF Red boxes): Could all red box holders please return their Missio Red box this weekend (18th /19th November) and 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
12/11/2023	£112.20	£130.80	£441.68	£684.68

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

All-year round Prayerful Dedication of a seven-day 24/7 Lit Candle. The practice of lighting a candle and dedicating it in prayer is so ancient and ever beautiful. Currently we are asking parishioners to dedicate these candles in memory of the departed loved ones. The act of lighting a votive candle at the altar, before an icon, a relic and statue is an act of communion with Our Lord. We light a candle and then we walk away but the candle continues to shine as a symbol of love and devotion and a physical, tangible reminder of our faith in the mercy, compassion, and love of God. I intend to promote this practice after the month of holy Souls. We should promote this practice of lighting the votive candles at the Statues of Our Lady, St Theresa and St Anthony of Padua. Each candle costs £5 and will remain lit for seven days as I pray for your intentions during the week. The other usual votive candles which usually last for two hours when lit are also available and you can use them too. Thank you.



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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 18 th November <i>Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
	Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls: for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Sunday 19 th November <i>World Day of the Poor</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Brian & Eileen Quinn's Intentions (Holy souls)
Wednesday 22 nd November ^r <i>St Cecilia</i>	Mass: 8:45 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Thursday 23 rd November <i>St Clement</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Friday 24 th November <i>St Andrew Dung-Lac & Co</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY - YEAR A

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 25 th November <i>Memorial of Our Lady</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
	Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Sunday 26 th November <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Youth Day)</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Carmine Zuniga-Daly's intentions and prayers
	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Margaret Hurley R.I.P. (Claire)



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