

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT- YEAR B

3rd December 2023

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

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Mass book (P.82)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Isaiah 63:16-

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

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

*Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!*

Something extra during the Advent Season: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Mass every Friday during Advent. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will start at 5.30 pm. The Holy Rosary will be said twice at 6.00 pm and at 7.00 pm and Holy Mass at 7.30 pm. If we are taken up or distracted by the hustle and bustle of daily life, Advent Season can easily pass by without doing the required Spiritual Preparation before Christmas. Everyone is invited to doing something extra during the Advent Season. The Church appeals to everyone to make time for a good spiritual preparation before Christmas.

Christmas Mass times: I'm pleased to confirm our Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve - Sunday 24th December

Vigil Mass - Children's Mass 4.30 pm

Night Mass 8.00 pm

Midnight Mass 11.30 pm

Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

Dawn Mass 8.30 am

Day Mass 10.00 am

Children's Service and Christmas Party Saturday December 16th 2023: The Children's Christmas Service will be on Saturday 16th December at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by the Christmas Party in the Parish Centre. All are very welcome to the service but please let us know if your child / children wish to attend the party so that we may cater for everyone. Please email us at helenhall5@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01842 879766 with your child's name and age as soon as possible. A voluntary donation of £4.00 can be given on the day of the party. We are very excited because Fr. Christmas has contacted us to say that he will prioritise a visit during this very busy time for him. Please let Helen and Mark know by **Saturday 9th December 2023.**



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

Second Collections: It is the intention of the Church that every Parish should reach out to the wide community and the whole world through the support of the Second Collections. This is one of the ways to accomplish our Christian Calling to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. As it was not formally announced last Sunday, we will have the last Second Collection for this year NEXT Sunday (10th December). Thank you for your help.

Wednesday Club Christmas Raffle to raise funds for the New Boiler: The Wednesday club will be selling Raffle Tickets at Sunday Coffee following the Mass on the 3rd, 10th & 17th December. Please can you donate raffle prizes for this worthy cause by giving to any member of the Wednesday Club. The draw will take place after Mass in the Parish Centre on 17th December.

Encounter: The next Encounter meeting takes place on Friday 8th December at the Windhill Churches Centre, Bishop's Stortford. This meeting's topic is '**Reflections on readings for 2nd Sunday of Advent**, bring favourite seasonal paintings, poems & prayers' followed by Advent Lunch. Starting at 10.30am with coffee, 12.30 shared lunch, 2.00pm meeting ends. Everyone is invited to all or part of the day. Enquiries: 01279 652060/656482.

Churches Together Carol Celebration Saturday 16th December 4.00p.m.: Please join us for our annual event at 4p.m. in the memorial gardens outside of St Johns Church. This is a standing event so please bring something to sit on should you need to be seated. We look forward to seeing you.

Flower Donation Box: We now have a box in the entrance hall (the old intentions box) for flower donations. These funds will go towards flowers for the church, especially at Christmas and Easter. Flowers are really expensive these days. Thank you for your support.

A big Thank you: I would like on behalf of the Parish to thank Sharon King and her family for kindly donating new Nativity figures to the Parish. It was very kind.

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.

Hall Fund: Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the donations I have received for the Hall Fund- so far £1600 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 example, we urgently need a new boiler for the Hall and I have a quote of £6,000. Please support me in this effort and your donations will be gratefully received and very much appreciated. Please note that donations by cheque are payable to: **Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas**. Thank you.

Two urgent Parish Projects: Following the recent Finance Committee meeting, I learned that we do need a New Boiler for the Parish Hall. We have now obtained all the quotes we need. We are hoping that the boiler will be installed before Christmas. 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. Thank you so much for your help and support.



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

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. Thank you so much for your Mass intentions and your offerings.

Fr Clement's Prayer Basket: Please help yourself with whatever you find in Fr. Clement's basket. For example, you will find St Theresa's prayer card, which is meant to fit in your phone case or purse/wallet. Let us all try to rediscover this great Doctor of the Church who has been given to our Parish as our patron, protector and prayer-partner. You will also find Our Lady's miraculous medals and other prayer cards. Please help yourself.

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 available in our Church Entrance. Thank you.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2024: Copies of this year's directories are now available to purchase from the Repository. Ringbound copies are £4.15 and Paperback copies are £2.95. Thank you.

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
27/11/2023	£121.00	£173.89	£402.71	£697.60

Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish and the special collections. Cheques for the Parish are made payable to: **Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas**

If you pay tax and would like any donations you make to our Parish to be Gift Aided, please email Angelo at stansted-giftaid@brcdt.org for details.

The practice of lighting a candle and dedicating it in prayer is so ancient and ever beautiful.

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:

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 2nd December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the intentions & welfare of Francis Braeckman Vernon Keith R.I.P (By S. Keith)
Sunday 3rd December	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Keith Foulser R.I.P (by Tina Foulser) Peter Bennett R.I.P (by Mary Bennett)
Wednesday 6th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Thursday 7th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 7.00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list)
Friday 8th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 5.30 pm Mass: 7.30pm	For the Welfare of Jimmy Walsh (Eileen Quinn's brother) For the intentions and prayers of people of the Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 9th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Peter Russell R.I.P Elaine Smythe R.I.P (S. Keith)
Sunday 10th December	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls for our departed relatives & friends (Dead list) Ronnie Jackson's 10th Anniversary R.I.P.



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