

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT- YEAR B

10th December 2023

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

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Mass book (P.85)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Isaiah 40:1-5

Psalm 84: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

2 Peter 3:8-14

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Devotion to Our Lady: Advent and Christmas Seasons provide us a gracious opportunity to strengthen our devotion to Our Lady, the Mother of God. Without the critical role of Our Lady, that is, her fiat and obedience to God's divine will, there would be no Christmas. With Our Lady's necessary role as the Mother of God, the eternal salvation of our souls in Christ is accomplished. Let us try to share with the children and everyone how and why God chose and continues to use Our Lady as an instrument of our salvation in the Person of Christ. There are a few ways to try to understand Our Lady and her devotions. As a start, I list two.

- a) **The Holy Rosary.** It would be good to read more about the historical developments of the Holy Rosary as well as the many devotions and miracles associated with the Rosary.
- b) **The Saints:** St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort - In academia, it would be necessary to quote this great saint and specialist in the devotion to Our Lady. Saint Pope John Paul II quite literally took up his motto, *Totus Tuus*, from the writings of this great saint.

My motto; 'Totus Tuus' is inspired by the teaching of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort. These two words express total belonging to Jesus through Mary: 'Tuus totus ego sum, et omnia mea tua sunt,' St Louis Marie wrote, and he translates his words: 'I am all yours, and all that I have is yours, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, your most holy Mother. This Saint's teaching has had a profound influence on the Marian devotion of many of the faithful and on my own life. It is a lived teaching of outstanding ascetic and mystical depth, expressed in a lively and passionate style that makes frequent use of images and symbols. All our perfection consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ; and therefore, the most perfect of all devotions is, without any doubt, that which most perfectly conforms, unites and consecrates us to Jesus Christ. Now, Mary being the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ, it follows that, of all devotions, that which most consecrates and conforms the soul to Our Lord is devotion to his holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus. When we praise her, love her, honour her or give anything to her, it is God who is praised, God who is loved, God who is glorified, and it is to God that we give, through Mary and in Mary (Saint Pope John Paul II on the Treatise on True Devotion).

St. John Eudes who wrote the Mass/Liturgy of the Sacred Heart says this: *You must never separate what God has so perfectly united. So closely are Jesus and Mary bound up with each other that whoever beholds Jesus sees Mary; whoever loves Jesus, loves Mary; whoever has devotion to Jesus, has devotion to Mary.*



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

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.**

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 this weekend (10th December) and on the day of the draw. 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.

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.



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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.

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
03/12/2023	£173.00	£ 230.80	£ 391.20	£795.00

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**



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

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 9 th 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 10 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	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 10 th Anniversary R.I.P.
Tuesday 12 th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	Holy Rosary: 7.00 pm Mass: 7.30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	The prayers and intentions of the people of the parish
Wednesday 13 th December <i>St Lucy</i>	Mass: 11:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Quinn and Walsh Families
Thursday 14 th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Happy and eternal repose of Jean Newell R.I.P.
Friday 15 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 5.30 pm Mass: 7.30pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the departed souls of Ted Clarke, Rose Clarke, Dinny Clarke, Marie Clarke & Clarke & Rooney Families For the intentions of Fr. Clement's family and friends

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 16 th 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>	Special Intentions (By Rosemary S) James McCreanor R.I.P. (By Sheila W.)
Sunday 17 th December <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	The prayers and intentions of the people of the parish Mick & Jim Cassidy R.I.P. (by Eilish C)



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