

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

## *The Little Flower Messenger*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B** (24<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

**Holy Family Mass Year B** (Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)

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

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**Mass book (P.90) Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 (Holy Family Readings Mass book Page 105)**

**1st Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5 Psalm 88:2-5: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**2nd Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!*

**Please note that this Newsletter will be used for two weeks (two Sundays).**

### **Some of Fr. Clement's Christmas thoughts**

**In expressing total confidence to Our Lady,** I have a few questions that require no answers yet they inspire a deeper appreciation and devotion to Mary. Did Mary have the option to say No? Where would I be now if Mary were to say no and reject God's plans? Surely, God did not force Mary to say Yes. The Gospels tell us that Mary felt "deeply disturbed" by the Annunciation. She even questioned and wondered how the message of Annunciation could be accomplished in reality. How many of us could have the confidence to confront the angel of God with questions? The whole world was eagerly waiting for Mary's *Fiat*. Finally, she said Yes. As a result, I am and we are redeemed in Christ. Mary's Yes transformed the course of human history for good. Like Mary, we freely say, "May it be done to me according to your word". Let us then learn from Mary how to open ourselves as a home for God's presence and indwelling. This is the sole purpose of the Incarnation; that God may be with us if we allow him in.

**In the midst of darkness, the Light of Christ has come into the world.** The hymn "The Light of Christ" highlights the meaning of Christmas which is a universal urgent appeal to everyone to turn away from the darkness of sin. The Liturgy of Christmas is full of images of darkness and light. The Church recommends that the Celebration of Christmas starts in the evening as the light of day is being overtaken by the darkness of the night. Holy Mass is celebrated throughout the night to proclaim Christ as the Light of the world. The Liturgy of Midnight and Dawn Mass emphasises that Christ remains the only Light that shines during "the darkest hour of humanity". God remains "Immanuel in Christ" in every struggle or darkness we go through.

**"The Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us"** - this is what we read from the Gospel's original text (John 1:14). Jesus is the incarnation of the creative Word of God and becomes one with us in our fragile, "tent-like" human existence. The image of a tent also takes us back to the Exodus experience. The Gospel of John assumes we know that he is alluding to the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 25 to 27), the place where God dwelt among his people. Now John tells



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us that Jesus himself is the locus of God's presence; Jesus is the true Tent of Meeting, the true Temple. Jesus is the Word made flesh, the place where the glory of God has chosen to dwell.

**Alma Redemptoris Mater-** with humility and faith, the Church venerates Our Lady by praying this Prayer in the Advent and Christmas Seasons. **Let us pray the same prayer too.**

**O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,  
Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more.  
Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wondering,  
Yet you remained a virgin after as before, You, who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,  
have pity on us, poor sinners. Amen.**

*Up through the day before Christmas Eve:*

**V.** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R.** And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

*Let us pray:* Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From Christmas Eve:*

**V.** Thou gavest birth without loss of thy virginity: **R.** Intercede for us, O holy Mother of God.

*Let us pray:* O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary has offered unto the human race the rewards of eternal salvation, grant, we beseech thee, that we may know the effects of her intercession, through whom we have deserved to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

**Alma Redemptoris Mater** (original text): *Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere. Amen.*

**Devotion to Our Lady: St. John Eudes who wrote the Liturgy of the Sacred Heart says:** *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.*

**Christmas Flower Second Collection:** Please give your donations this weekend. Thank you for your help and donations towards Christmas Decorations. The box is located in the entrance hall (the old intentions box) for the donations.

**Tea and Coffee:** There will be no teas/coffee after Mass this Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> December). We shall recommence them again on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Should you wish to help and be added to the rota please contact Suzanne at 07732 627 382 or via email [suzanne.shutes@btinternet.com](mailto:suzanne.shutes@btinternet.com).

**Hall Fund:** It would be ideal if the Parish Hall were able to raise enough funds to pay for its bills throughout the year. To this end, the Hall Fund has been created within our Parish Accounts System in order that the expenditure incurred, and the income received for the Hall is monitored. Thank you immensely for the donations you have given for the Hall Fund: So far, a total of £4111.85 has been received. 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.**

In summary:

<b>BOILER FUND Donations -</b>	<b>£2,460.00,</b>
<b>HALL FUND Donations -</b>	<b>£1,651.85,</b>
<b>TOTAL Donations -</b>	<b>£4111.85</b>

This is AMAZING. Thank you so much for your help.



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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.

**Offertory:**

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
17/12/2023	£202.45	£ 126.12	£ 420.04	£748.61

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

**A Thank-You Message from Fr. Clement:** I am very touched to receive Christmas cards and gifts from some parishioners. Please remember I do not expect anything from you especially since I have only recently arrived in the parish. However, I am eternally grateful for the money, cards, and gifts I have received from you. Your gift is very much appreciated. With my humble prayers, I wish you, together with your relatives and friends God's Christmas Graces and Blessings. Please remember me in your prayers. Thank you for your help and support.

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)**

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Michael Bambridge's intentions & welfare (Jeanne)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Expectant Mothers</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mrs Ramona Sebastiana Nazareth R.I.P  The deceased members of Wood, McCreanor & Donnelly families
<b>NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>		
<i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i>	Children's Mass: 4:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Protection of our children and intentions of our families
<i>Christmas Mass During the Night</i>	Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The intentions of Parishioners and Fr. Clement's prayers
<i>Midnight Mass</i>	Mass: 11:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The prayers and intentions of all in the Lawson family (by Sylvia Lawson)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Mass of the Dawn</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Joy family
<i>Mass of the Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St Stephen</i>	Mass: 7:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The Welfare and intentions of our Altar Servers & their families and friends



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Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St John</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Miss Margaret Elizabeth Aldridge R.I.P
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	Mass: 9.30 am -please note time <i>Livestreamed</i>	Parishioners who are sick or struggling in any way
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December <i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the departed souls of Ted Clarke, Rose Clarke Dinny Clarke, Marie Clarke & Clarke & Rooney Families

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)**

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of Mary Allsop  Ryan Family R.I.P (S.Keith)
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and Intentions of Coryn Nixon  Prayers and intentions of the people of the parish
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Mary Mother of God</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Thanksgiving for the blessings received and protection from the evil one
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <i>Feria of Christmas tide</i>	No Mass	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <i>Feria of Christmas tide</i>	No Mass	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feria of Christmas tide</i>	No Mass	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feria of Christmas tide</i>	No Mass	

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)**

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions & welfare of Mike and Coryn Nixon
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of Sylvia Lawson  Prayers & intentions of the people of the parish



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