

The Little Flower Messenger

The Epiphany of The Lord Year B

7th January 2024

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

• stansted@brcdt.org • www.sttheresastansted.org

• Twitter: @StStansted • Instagram: sttheresastansted

Priest in Charge: Fr Clement Orango FrClementOrango@brcdt.org ☎ 01279 814 349

Parish Administrator: Clair Rava stansted@brcdt.org ☎ 01279 816 889/07734 273 969

Mass book (P.115)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 71:1-2: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

2024 New year resolutions: Please say a prayer to Our Lady every day

At the New Year Mass of thanksgiving, I requested that we all say a prayer every day to Our Lady in 2024. Many are already doing this, while others are saying the whole Rosary every day. Besides the usual Ave Maria (Hail Mary) prayer, please consider to say the following prayers.

Memorare

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is a thing unheard of, that anyone ever had recourse to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, and was left forsaken. Filled therefore with confidence in your goodness I fly to you, O Mother, Virgin of virgins, to you I come, before you I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer. Amen. (please note another traditional translation is available).

Haily Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God; that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

A Prayer to St Joseph

O Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day. You protected and cherished the Virgin; loving the child Jesus as your Son, you rescued Him from the danger of death. Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the blood of Christ. Guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials. May your prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness and in death rejoice in the crown of Victory. St Joseph, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen



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

Lessons and suggestions: While you remember, please do email me your suggestions or lessons that we need to consider in this year's Christmas Liturgical Celebrations, God willing. For example, I have received a suggestion that we should consider to hold a Christmas Carols Service before Christmas Masses. Please email me your suggestions or areas we need to improve.

THANK YOU: I am immensely grateful for the gracious and generous Christmas gift you gave me. Many parishioners gave me their Christmas gift in a Christmas Card while others gave me via a collection- this was gratefully received and very much appreciated. Many people will be aware that the Collections at Christmas and Easter form the greater part of the personal income for the priest. For this I am truly grateful, especially in these times of a sharp rise in the cost of living. For those who give their Sunday Collection via Standing Orders Scheme, it would be helpful, for auditing purposes, if you could indicate whether you consider a proportion (**2 weeks of the 52 weeks of the year**) to go the Christmas and Easter Offering amounts. A simple email or note to me would clarify our accounts. Some parishioners may wish to contribute separately to the priest at this time and this could be a one-off BACS transaction marked Christmas (with gift aid number if applicable), or a marked envelope (again with gift aid number if applicable). You may of course wish to simply place offerings in the usual collection at the weekend. For all this, and your continued generous support of my ministry, MANY THANKS.

Tea and Coffee: Please join us this Sunday (7th January) in the Parish Centre after the 10:00am Mass. 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 Many thanks for your help.

Encounter: Our next meeting takes place on Friday 12th January 2024 at the Windhill Churches Centre, Bishop's Stortford. A talk on DVD led by Fr Denis McBride CSSR 'In the house of Simon the Pharisee. Join us at 10.00am for coffee, 10.30am talk starts, 12.30pm shared lunch, 2.00pm meeting ends. All are invited to attend for all or part of the day. Enquiries: 01279 652060/656482

Hall Fund: It would be ideal if the Parish Hall were able to raise enough funds to pay for all 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:

Boiler Fund Donations = £2,460.00, Hall Fund Donations = £1,651.85, TOTAL Donations = £4111.85. This is AMAZING. Thank you so much for your help. Your donations will be gratefully appreciated.

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 and a few other cards. Please help yourself. These are all for free.



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

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Two young parishioners have asked if we could help prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Are there any more young people who would like to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Please let me know as soon as possible so that all concerned may be consulted. I have received three requests so far.

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.

Cashless donation point: I have purchased a Cashless Donation Gadget which will be placed at a Cashless Donation Point at the entrance of the Church – it can also be taken to the Hall when having tea/coffee after Mass, and at any other event or meeting. The gadget is operated by SumUp, a global financial technology company based in London. There are no monthly subscription fees. However, like any other financial or banking institution, there will be very small transactional charges but this is not a problem- I have carefully considered this point and concluded that the benefits of a cashless donation gadget are greater. I have signed up this gadget to our parish bank account so that all donations are forwarded to our Account. Many parishes are doing the same. You can use any card or contactless payment method. It is easy and safe to use. The instructions are right next to it, if needed. Thank you for your generosity.

Prior to this, I had received a few requests from parishioners if I can make Cashless Donation as an option available for everyone in the parish. One of the parishioners who wrote to me said this: "When you go to something at the church, it's cash only. That excludes those of us that prefer to pay by card. I've skipped coffee mornings I would have liked to attend, because I was out of cash. I try to keep coins for church, but it's difficult. It's not me. I've heard others express the same feelings. I hope we uncover an untapped source of income from people that prefer card payments and it turns out to be a benefit to our church."

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
24/12/2023	£67.30	£152.37	£420.04	£639.71
31/12/2023	£93.70	£196.40	£420.04	£710.14

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**

Brother Laurence Ezeilo: We welcome Brother Laurence, a monk and priest of Mount St Bernard Cistercian Monastery at Loughborough, who has come to stay with me for a week. Brother Laurence will be available to celebrate Mass everyday at our Church while dedicating many hours every day to pray for the intentions of everyone in the parish. He will also guide me in a retreat of meditation and prayer while staying with me during this week. Please pray for Brother Laurence. Everyone is invited to the Celebration of the holy Mass this week as per the schedule here below:



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

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 6 th 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 th January	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of Sylvia Lawson A Thank-you Mass from Fr. Clement for everyone
Monday 8 th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	Mass 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of Ned West (by the West family- 18 th Bday)
Tuesday 9 th January <i>Feria</i>	Mass 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	The sick and all who are struggling in any way
Wednesday 10 th January <i>Feria</i>	Mass: 12:30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	James Walsh R.I.P (E. Quinn's brother)
Thursday 11 th January <i>Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls (J. & K. Welsh)
Friday 12 th January <i>Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of everyone in the parish
Saturday 13 th January	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Pam Jacobs R.I.P (by Jacobs family)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 13 th January	Confessions: 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the welfare of Michael Bambridge
Sunday 14 th January <i>Peace Day</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Michael Jacobs R.I.P (by M. Jacobs) For Kali Kapandia R.I.P (by B. & E. Quinn)



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