

The Little Flower Messenger

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

4th February 2024

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

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Mass book (P.134)

1st Reading:

Psalms 146:1-6

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1 Corinthians 9:16-19

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

“Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people” - Mark 1:17

Please come to a **General Meeting with all volunteers/parishioners after 6.00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass on 17th February 2024**. The meeting will start at 7.15 pm in the Hall. Inspired by the Gospel of Mark (Mark 1:14-20), I would like to chair a parish meeting with all volunteers so that we may get to know what each one is doing currently and who is willing to help with anything else in the parish. We have a fantastic volunteering spirit in the parish and we are deeply grateful and indebted to very kind and generous parishioners who are already doing a number of things. In response to the Gospel of the 3rd Sunday (on 21/01/2024), I asked if there was anyone of us in the parish who is talented in organising events. I am happy to report that a parishioner who is willing to help as an organising secretary has volunteered. **The question or challenge is this: how do we build up a united and friendly parish that is outward looking?** We take inspiration from the Gospel calling us to fish for people. The Gospel is like a net, lifting people from dark waters into the light of day and transforming their lives. How can God use me and you to fish for people's souls? How can we, as Christians and parishioners, encourage each other to find new seas and cast new nets where waters have never been fished before? Where are you casting your net?

The Memorare Prayer: 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 there are other traditional versions/translations available).

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



Helping candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation: On behalf of the parish, I am very grateful to Tom & Catherine H. and David M. who have volunteered to help with the required lessons/catechesis. Three 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. The final date of application is 31st January and the Lessons will begin.

Diocesan News

YEAR 12 RETREAT - Friday 16th to Sunday 18th February "Life to the Full" - You are at a stage where you are about to start making decisions and dreaming about future plans. You might be at a stage where you are looking to explore your faith further and learn more about the role God plays within your life. This retreat will give you time to think, pray and chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London. There will be a mix of fun and games, along with times of reflection and personal prayer. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE - Last week of July 2024 (exact dates TBC)
Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 - 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website [BCYS Summer Lourdes 2024 - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service](http://www.bcys.net/summer-lourdes-2024)

Flame is returning to Wembley Arena on Saturday 15th March 2025: Following the great success of Flame 2023, where over 1000 young people from the Diocese joined the crowd of 8000 in Wembley Arena for a full day event full of energy, prayer, joy and hope, we are excited to be preparing for 2025, with content that is ideal for young people from Year 10 to Year 13 (age approx. 15 - 18). If you are interested in attending, please email Clair at stansted@brcdt.org with you contact details.

Parish News

The Partnership of the Catholic Parishes of Stansted and Saffron Walden: Bishop Alan is currently overseeing a number of changes across the diocese. As a parish, we have been asked to establish a partnership with the Catholic Parish in Saffron Walden. Declining numbers of the clergy coupled with declining of both members of the congregation and parish income, have necessitated these changes throughout the diocese. Members of the parish are being asked to take an active role in volunteering to support the running of the affairs of their parish while the priest will remain focused on the expanding pastoral matters. Representatives of both Stansted and Saffron Walden parishes will be asked to meet soon to discuss this matter. I will let you know more details once I have met with Fr. David Clemens, the parish priest of Saffron Walden Catholic Church. Let us pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us all in this challenge.

ASH Wednesday Masses: Masses will be at 12.00 pm and 7.30 pm on 14th February. Everyone is invited to attend as we all start the Holy Season of Lent. Please note that as Lent starts early this year, Easter Sunday will be on 31st March 2024.



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

Altar Server: Are you interested in becoming an Altar Server and supporting your parish? If you have made your First Holy Communion and want to know more about the role, please complete a form located in the church entrance or speak with Michael or Fr Clement.

St Patrick's Day, Sunday 17th March: Everyone is warmly invited to celebrate St Patrick's Day, Sunday 17th March 6-8pm in the Parish Centre. The wearing of the green! Bring and share food and drink. We have some singers, musicians and dancers already, but more acts will be welcome. Please contact David 01279 850209

Tea and Coffee: Please join us this Sunday (4th February) in the Parish Centre after the 10:00am Mass. If you would like 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.

We pray for the Sick and all who may need our prayers at this time especially Rachel Taylor and those who would like to remain private. 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.

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. We should promote this practice of lighting the votive candles at the Statues of Our Lady, St Theresa and St Anthony of Padua. 7 Day Sanctuary candles are available to light, we ask for a minimum donation of £5 per candle. Votive candles are also available and light for two hours for which we request a minimum donation of 20p per candle. Thank 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 Easter. Thank you for your support.

Repository: We have a selection of St Patricks Day, Mother's Day and Easter cards available in our repository, we also have candles and fill your own holy water bottles. Each purchase assists with fundraising for the parish, cards available in the Church entrance. Thank you.

Cashless Donation Point: If you do not have cash, please give your donation via a cashless gadget which is kept in the Church entrance porch. The Cashless gadget accepts your contactless debit or credit cards. Thank you for your gracious and generous help.

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
28/01/2024	£156.00	£197.67	£418.88	£772.55

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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Online Donations: 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 - they will not be available online. If you pay tax and would like any donations you make to our Parish to be Gift Aided, please email stansted-giftaid@brcdt.org for details.

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

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 3rd February <i>Liturgy: St Anne Line (Diocesan Feast)</i>	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions/prayers for Deacon Des Connors & Family
Sunday 4th February <i>Liturgy: Sunday, the Lord's Day</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and Intentions of the Joy Family For Stephen Craston R.I.P (by J. McArthur)
Wednesday 7th February <i>Liturgy: Feria</i>	Mass: 12:30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Beryl Sanley R.I.P (by Honor)
Thursday 8th February <i>Liturgy: Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	The Wellbeing and Intentions of Olive Vinter
Friday 9th February <i>Liturgy: Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Donor
Saturday 10th February <i>Liturgy: St Scholastica</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of Fr. Leszek Wisniewski

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 10th February <i>Liturgy: Sunday, the Lord's Day</i>	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Stephen Craston R.I.P (by John O'Brien)
Sunday 11th February <i>Liturgy: Sunday, the Lord's Day</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Fr John Garrett R.I.P For Stephen Craston R.I.P (by Brian Quinn)



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