

# *The Little Flower Messenger*

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

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**Mass book (P.137)**

**1st Reading:**

**Psalms 31:1-2:**

**2nd Reading:**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Gospel: Mark 1:40-45**

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-45

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

*Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!*

**Jesus heals a leper in the Gospel of this Sunday.** Having encountered, tackled and defeated the devil in the man who was possessed (Mk 1:25), Jesus embarks on his ministry of healing. The woman who remains nameless, St Peter's mother-in-law, was the first person to be healed. Jesus heals her by touching her and raising her up. The second person to be healed by Jesus was a leper, a man who also remains nameless (Mk 1:41). Jesus does this by breaking the law of the land that forbade the touching of lepers and women who were considered to be unclean. In keeping with the law (see today's first reading), contact with any unclean person made the other person unclean too. Jesus distances himself from "man-made laws" and astoundingly, reaches out and touches the untouchables. Jesus shows us that the real value of a person is inside, not outside. A person's body may be deformed, diseased or aged but to God, there is no human being who is of a lesser value. As Christians, our mission is to reach out to everyone with a compassionate touch of Jesus. We can fulfil this mission of Christ only if we let ourselves to be touched and healed by Jesus. In a way, we are all like the people with leprosy in the Bible because we have all been deformed by the ugliness of sin. God is willing to touch everyone. As we celebrate the holy Mass, God gives us the opportunity to be touched and healed by Jesus, the Blessed Sacrament, fully present in the Mass.

**The Season of Lent starts this week - ASH Wednesday Masses at 12.00 pm and 7.30 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> February.** Everyone is expected to partake in this opening Mass of the holy Season of Lent.

**"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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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



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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?

## 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 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.

**St Theresa's "Picnic Mass Group"**, consisting of parents/grandparents with their little children will meet for a friendly social time on Wednesdays with Fr. Clement in the Parish Hall at 10.00 am - 12.00 pm. This is a good opportunity to meet fellow Catholics instead of staying at home alone with your children. Join us for tea and coffee and allow your children to play together. It would be lovely to build this group and meet regularly. Please advertise this event and invite your friends of the same faith and all faiths, or none. This could be one of the beautiful ways to connect our parish to the wider community as we all endeavour to be outward looking and outreaching to everyone in accomplishing the Mission of Christ.

**Every Friday Prayer Group in Lent beginning at 7.00 pm with Stations of the Cross**, Adoration and ending with Mass at 8.30pm. Everyone is invited. Please do make a special effort to attend during this holy season of Lent.

**Safeguarding-DBS checks:** One of my to-dos in Lent will be to encourage as many parishioners as possible to apply for their DBS if one is needed. Those who need to have a current DBS are parishioners who would like to be involved with Children's Liturgy, those who visit the sick or housebound, and anyone who is publicly involved with various parish roles or in a parish position of "trust". If you are happy to volunteer for any of these roles, please let me know, and the role(s) in which you are interested. I will then pass on your details to the Parish Safeguarding Representative in order to commence the process.

**Encounter** meet next Friday 16 February at St Theresa's Stansted. Fr David Clemens (Saffron Walden Parish) will lead a talk with discussion on the theme: **"Our 40 day Lenten Journey"** 10.00 Coffee 10.30 Talk & discussion 12.30 shared lunch 2.00 Day ends. All welcome to come for all or part of the day. Enquiries: 816916 or 652060.

**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 (11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Suzanne.shutes@btinternet.com). Many thanks for your help.



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**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.

**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.

**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 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.

**We welcome Fr. Leszek Wisniewski,** a friend of Fr. Clement, who celebrates the Masses this weekend. Fr. Leszek is the parish priest of the Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd, Haddenham in Aylesbury. He is also the parish priest of Our Lady of Light Catholic Church, Long Crendon in Aylesbury. Fr Leszek is keen to see Fr. Clement's new parish and get to speak with parishioners after Mass. We welcome him warmly and please remember him in your prayers.

**Offertory:**

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
04/02/2024	£85.00	£227.76	£418.88	£731.46

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:**

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Liturgy: Sunday, the Lord's Day</i>	Confessions: <b>5:15 pm - 5:45 pm</b> Vigil Mass: <b>6:00 pm</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For Stephen Craston R.I.P</b> ( by John O'Brien)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Liturgy: Sunday, the Lord's Day</i>	Mass: <b>8:30 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: <b>10:00 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Fr. John Garrett R.I.P</b>  <b>For Stephen Craston R.I.P</b> ( by Brian Quinn)
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: <b>12:00 pm</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: <b>7:30 pm</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the prayers and intentions of Jackson family</b>  <b>For the prayers and intentions of the people of the Parish</b>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Liturgy: Lent Feria</i>	Mass: <b>10:00 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>Prayers and Intentions of Michael Cartin</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Liturgy: Lent Feria</i>	Mass: <b>10.00 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Stations of the Cross: & Adoration: <b>7.00 pm</b> Mass: <b>8.30 pm</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the intentions and prayers for Vanessa Mason</b>  <b>Intentions and prayers for Anne Seagroatt (C. Farndell)</b>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Liturgy: Lent Feria</i>	Mass <b>9.00 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For parishioners &amp; our dear ones who are sick/struggling</b>

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)**

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Confessions: <b>5:15 pm - 5:45 pm</b> Vigil Mass: <b>6:00 pm</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the intentions and welfare of Tim Richards</b>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Mass: <b>8:30 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: <b>10:00 am</b> <i>Livestreamed</i>	<b>For the intentions and welfare of the Joy Family</b>  <b>Holy Souls: Anne McGinley, Anne Doherty &amp; Paddy Byrne</b>



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