

# Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

## *The Little Flower Messenger*

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Time Year B

18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

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**Mass book (P.148)**

**1st Reading:**

**Psalms 31:1-2:**

**2nd Reading:**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Gospel: Matthew 4:4**

Genesis 9.8-15

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

1 Peter 3:18-22

*Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you. O' Christ, king of eternal glory!*

**Meeting with Parishioners on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall: As I chair a General Meeting of all Parishioners this Weekend, I request that more Volunteers come forward to help me, please.** As announced, all parishioners are invited to this meeting. Our Faith in the Risen Lord is the sublime motivation why we volunteer and offer our service to the Church. The Church relies on people volunteering and becoming involved. Our parish needs you and relies on your services and donations. For which aspects of our Parish Church would you like to offer your help and support, please? I pray that you will be prepared and able to give a bit of time to help those parts flourish. As the new Pastor for this Parish, I would like to commission with a fresh mandate a number of parish groups by the start of the year 2025. They will include, but not be limited to a new Parish Pastoral Council, a new Parish Finance Committee, a new Parish Social Committee and a new Parish Liturgy Committee etc – obviously, there is no rush! On behalf of the parish, I offer my sincere prayerful wishes and grateful thanks to all those who have been volunteers and continue to support our parish in every possible way. We will continue to pray for everyone supporting our parish. Please have a look at the following list and let me know for which of the following you will volunteer and support the parish by offering your time and skills. I will carefully consider new members for different parish groups. **Thank you for your kind help.**

1) Counting and Banking the Sunday Collection and donations. 2) Hoovering and Cleaning the Church. 3) The Cleaning and Caretaking of the Hall. 4) Cleaning the windows and doors of the Church and Hall. 5) Looking after the Church grounds by mowing the grass. 6) Assisting in different Liturgical Actions during the Mass. 7) Taking Holy Communion to the sick or housebound. 8) Looking after the Sacristy. 9) Serving the parish by giving the time and skills required for a parish group or committee. 10) Doing the Teas or Coffees after Mass. 11) Helping with Children's Liturgy. 12) Supporting/Starting a prayer group. 13) Helping with the Catechesis and Sharing your faith with those preparing to receive the Sacraments. 14) Doing the Church flowers and decorations. 15) Doing the ministry of greeting and welcoming. 16) Cutting the hedge, collecting the leaves and rubbish etc. 17) Checking the status of our heating, lights and water. 18) Health and Safety jobs. 19) Visiting fellow parishioners. 20) Offering to drive someone who needs a lift. 21)



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Parish Archivist (pictures and memories) Etc. I am immensely grateful to everyone for all your help and support.

**“Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people” ( Mark 1:17)** – this was the Gospel of the First Sunday of Ordinary Time that inspired me to invite all volunteers and parishioners to a General Meeting taking place in the Parish Hall after the Vigil Mass this Saturday. In response to this Gospel, the question or challenge is this: **how do we build up a united and friendly parish that is outward looking?** 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?

**Brotherhood, the Inner Life of Monks:** If possible, please do watch this Documentary on BBC iPlayer: Brotherhood, the Inner Life of Monks. Given the way the BBC has removed “Songs of Praise” from its’ traditional Prime Time, I am amazed it is currently promoting this religious program. I have watched this program a few times under the title “Outside the City”. Here, you will be able to see Brother Laurence who recently visited us. The BBC shows the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey, a community of 25 men, more than half of whom are over 80 years old, opening the first Trappist Brewery in the UK. The BBC continue to say that for their historic, countercultural lifestyle (as monks) to survive, this venture of the Brewery must succeed. Furthermore, the BBC emphasises the fact that as the monks reflect on spirituality, ageing and the end of life, the number of burials in the abbey graveyard continues to grow. Please pray for more vocations to the monastery, priesthood and religious life. I have watched this program here: BBC Four - Brotherhood: The Inner Life of Monks.

## **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



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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.

**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 (18<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.

**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.

**Infant Baptism:** We pray for baby Pablo Marquez who is baptised this weekend on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Please pray also for the intentions of his parents Guillermo Marquez and Sofia Zapata.

**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 have a box in the entrance hall 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 Patrick's 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 are 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
11/02/2024	£112.00	£215.42	£ 467.81	£795.23

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:**

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the intentions and welfare of Tim Richards
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the intentions and welfare of the Joy Family  Holy Souls: Anne McGinley, Anne Doherty & Paddy Byrne
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00am-please note 10am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For individual and parish Lenten Intentions and prayers
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February <i>The Chair of St Peter- Feast</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Thanksgiving for the favours & for Edward Melly's welfare
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Stations of the Cross: & Adoration: 7.00 pm Mass: 8.30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For our dear ones and parishioners who are sick  For the welfare and healing of Evonne D'Cruz
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Martin Mason R.I.P

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Stephen Craston R.I.P (by Mary & Tony R.)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>  Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayer and Intentions of the Joy Family  Eugene O'Regan R.I.P



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