

The Little Flower Messenger

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B

25th February 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

Parish Safeguarding: Bernadette Horton safestansted@brcdt.org

Mass book (P.151)

1st Reading:

Psalms 115:10

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Genesis 22:1-2

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Romans 8:31-34

Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Listen! The key action word in the Gospel today is Listen. **Listening to Jesus** is neither a request nor a piece of advice. It is a command! Listening to anything or anyone else is not an alternative. The Gospel of Mark is keen to highlight that Jesus is the true Son of God and not the Emperor who is a mere creature. The Emperor of that time was Tiberius Augustus and he was considered as "the son of the divine god" and the Roman Currency carried this message. Tiberius was adopted as a son of the first Emperor, Augustus, who was venerated and even worshipped as a divine god. Seeing the insanity and absurdity of this claim, the Gospel of Mark sets off with a brave and fundamental first amendment: Jesus is the true Son of God. In the end, and in a colourful and dramatic way, the Gospel of Mark appoints the Emperor's Official, a Roman Centurion (Soldier), as the only person in the entire Gospel of Mark who acclaims Jesus as the Son of God – "and when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said: Surely this man was the Son of God" (Mk 15:39).

Having encountered, tackled and defeated the devil in the First Sunday of Lent, today the Gospel of Mark invites us to the scene of the Transfiguration of Jesus where he is revealed as the beloved Son of God. We hear in the Gospel the Voice of God exalting Jesus above Moses and Elijah as the long-awaited Messiah with full divine authority. Jesus is neither one of the prophets nor a reincarnation of any one of them. As the Son of God, Jesus surpasses them in authority and power. The appearance of Moses and Elijah showed Jesus as the fulfilment of both the Old Testament and the prophetic promises.

Many voices in this world try to tell us how to be happy, how to live, and how to know God personally. Some of these voices are helpful, but the majority of them are not. Which voices am I listening to, which ones are misleading me, and which ones are wasting my time?

Let us Listen to God's Word in the Bible and then evaluate other voices and authorities in the light of God's revelation. Let us pray for the grace of deep listening and discernment of God's Will. Like Abraham in the first reading, God's Will might be strange and illogical to us. Yet when we do give to God what He asks, He returns to us far more than we could dream, and the spiritual benefits of His blessings far outweigh our sacrifices – you're never happier without Faith!



Some of the Prayers to use in Lent

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

A Prayer to St Michael: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

A prayer to my Guardian Angel: Angel of God, my Guardian dear, God's Love for me has sent you here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and rule, to guard and guide. Amen

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



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

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 (25th 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.

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.

Infant Baptism: We pray for baby Jayden Kevin Chacko's who is baptised today (25th February) after Mass. Please pray also for the intentions of his parents Kevin and Roshma.

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 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 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: 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.**



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

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

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 24 th 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 th 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
Wednesday 28 th February	Mass: 12:30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	The intentions of members of the Wednesday Club
Thursday 29 th February	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Fr. Clement's intentions
Friday 1 st March <i>St David</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Stations of the Cross: & Adoration: 7.00 pm Mass: 8.30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Holy Souls: our deceased dear ones and parishioners Prayers and Intentions of Coryn Nixon & family
Saturday 2 nd March	Mass 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Parishioners who are sick and those struggling privately

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 2 nd March	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers for Dr Bertie Napier
Sunday 3 rd March	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and Intentions of Sylvia Lawson & family Prayers and intentions of the people of the parish



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