

The Little Flower Messenger

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B

3rd March 2024

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

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Mass book (P.157)

1st Reading:

Psalms 94:1-2

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Exodus 17:3-7

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'.

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

A Reflection of this Sunday's Gospel

Cleanse and Purify: All who partake in the Liturgy of the Mass on the Third Sunday of Lent are invited to find the reason to pray for the grace of cleansing and purification. May the Spirit of God blow through our minds and hearts so that we may acknowledge and accept our desperate human condition that is in need of God's saving grace. The temple of God, that we are since baptism, has descended into chaos, division and confusion – it is like a market that is controlled by earthly forces and powers. Jesus enters into this temple by force. To those who cooperate, His extraordinary power breaks all the chains of evil, and sets free fettered souls.

Jesus confronts what he considers to be a purely human and earthly religion that is based on money changing plus the selling and buying of pigeons, cattle and sheep for the purpose of offering them up as a Sacrifice in the Temple. The scene of Jesus' entry into the temple is reported by all the Four Gospels- therefore, its spiritual and symbolic meaning is so important that it should deserve our special attention and reflection.

Jesus couldn't stomach the unfairness and injustices he saw in the Temple of God. First, the religious leaders did not seem to care that the Court reserved for Gentiles was so full of merchants that foreigners found it difficult to worship and yet the main purpose in visiting the temple is to worship. Secondly, Temple tax had to be paid in local currency which meant foreigners had to have their money changed and they were often charged exorbitant exchange rates by money changers. Thirdly, as the people were required to make sacrifices for their sins, many could not bring their own animals because of the long journey while others who brought animals, had them rejected for imperfections. Consequently, the animal merchants conducted a flourishing business in the temple courtyard as the price of sacrificial animals was much higher in the temple area than elsewhere. Therefore, we can imagine Jesus visibly angry at the dishonest, greedy practices of the money changers and merchants who made a mockery of God's House of Worship.

Let us think of the anger of Our Risen Lord at the corruption and chaos he sees being done in His Church especially in the temples of those souls who He has redeemed through baptism.

Jesus wept- the Passion of Jesus is still ongoing whenever he sees the ugliness of sin destroy "our temples" by taking away our dignity and freedom of being the Children of God.



The Liturgy of this Sunday talks about the Ten Commandments. Here is the children's version: Cleansing and purifying oneself by God's top Ten: **1) Put God first, 2) Worship him only, 3) No bad words, 4) Keep God's Day Special, 5) Obey you parents, 6) Harm no one, 7) Don't cheat, 8) If it is not yours, don't take it, 9) Tell the truth, 10) Don't be jealous of other people's stuff.**

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

Parish News

Our Parish Administrator is leaving: Clair Rava, who has been working as our Parish Administrator since January 2020, will be leaving us in mid-March 2024. I have spoken to her and I understand that she is leaving in order to pursue other opportunities. I would like to thank Clair for her warm welcome and helping me to settle into life at St Theresa's. I will miss her organisational skills and greatly appreciate all the extra help she gave above and beyond, with flower arranging and revamping the repository among other things. She will be a hard act to follow! As a parish, we thank her most sincerely and will remember her in our prayers. We wish her many Blessings in her future endeavours.

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 is a beautiful way 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 8.00pm. 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 is in a parish position of "trust". If you are happy to volunteer for any of these roles, please let me know, and



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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 (3rd March) 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.

All Altar Servers' Meeting at 11.15am, after 10.00 am Mass on 17th March. This will be a good opportunity to talk about Easter Services and get to meet new Altar Servers. Thank you.

We pray for the Sick and all who may need our prayers at this time especially Rachel Taylor, and Diane who sadly fell and broke her hip. Also, pray for Diane's husband Chris 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, and to get 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/or 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 is 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.

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
18/02/2024	£101.50	£233.30	£467.81	£802.61
25/02/2025	£163.25	£181.97	£467.81	£813.03

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:

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
Wednesday 6 th March	Mass: 12:30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For our parishioners and dear ones who are sick
Thursday 7 th March	(No Mass)	
Friday 8 th March	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Stations of the Cross: & Adoration: 7.00 pm Mass: 8.00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Kenneth Rittener R.I.P Monica Shrubbs's healing and prayers for her family
Saturday 9 th March	Mass 8.00 am (Please note this change) <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers for Sheila Dickson

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 9 th March	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Henry Aldridge R.I.P
Sunday 10 th March 'Laetare' Sunday	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Joy family Richard Micholson's healing and prayers for his family



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