

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year B

17th March 2024

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

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Parish Safeguarding: Bernadette Horton safestansted@brcdt.org

Mass book (P.169)	Gospel: John 12:20-30
1st Reading:	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 50:3-4	A pure heart create for me, O God.
2nd Reading:	Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel Acclamation:	<i>Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! If a man serves me, says the Lord he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!</i>

The Principal Feast of St Joseph 19th March: Mass at 7.30 pm. All are invited.

Some of the Prayers to St Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen. (A prayer by Pope Francis).

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

The Holy Hour on Fridays at 6.00 pm: I'm looking for a more permanent time when our parish can be united in prayer in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I'm not sure of the best time for everybody but on a trial basis we are now praying the Holy Hour at 6.00 pm on Fridays. Please make every effort to partake in this prayer if at all possible.

A Funeral Mass for Penelope Gaine will be celebrated here at St Theresa's on Thursday 21st March at 2.00 pm, followed by a Reception in our Parish Hall. Penelope was one of our housebound parishioners and was based at Hargrave House in Stansted. In memory of his beloved wife, Michael Gaine has donated a New Cooker for our Parish Hall. I was very touched by Michael when he saw that as a parish we are in need of a new cooker. This gift will be very much appreciated and we are immensely grateful to Michael. Please pray for Penelope's happy repose while praying at the same time for the intentions and welfare of Michael and his family.

Here is the children's version of the Ten Commandments showing what it means to Love God and all people everywhere 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.



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

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 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

Bishop Alan Listens' Research Report: Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church. Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese.

Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

Parish News

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED: The Free Church on Chapel Hill will be hosting a LENT LECTURE titled "Binge watching Jesus in the T.V. Series THE CHOSEN" led by Rev Colin Fairweather on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm. All welcome. Free admission plus refreshments will be available.

Encounter Friday 22nd March: Meeting at the Windhill Churches Centre, Bishop's Stortford "Our journey towards Holy Week"; as we follow the Stations of the Cross. !0.00am Coffee 10.30am - 12.15pm Meeting, 12.30pm Lenten Lunch of soup, bread & cheese. All welcome for all or part of the morning/afternoon. Enquiries: BS 652060; 656482.

Parish Centre Planning Conditions: I'm pleased to confirm that an application has been submitted to Uttlesford District Council for the removal of the restrictions to the Parish Centre making the hall available to all in the community and able to remain open until midnight. The application can be viewed via the Uttlesford website: [Comment or search for a planning application - Uttlesford District Council](#) under the reference: UTT/24/0409/FUL. Should anyone wish to support our application then please feel free to do so via this site. I plan to have a Parish Centre Committee who will be responsible for bookings etc. If this is of interest, please speak with me after Mass. Thank you.

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



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community as we all endeavour to be outward looking and outreaching to everyone in accomplishing the Mission of Christ.

Stations of the Cross - every Wednesday at 12.00pm: Taking place every Wednesday during Lent Stations of the Cross at 12.00pm followed by Mass at 12.30pm. Everyone is invited. Please do make a special effort to attend during this holy season of Lent.

Holy Hour of Adoration every Friday at 6.00 pm followed by the Stations of Cross at 7.00 pm and ending with **Mass at 7.45pm.** Everyone is invited. Please do make a special effort to attend.

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 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.

Tea and Coffee: Please join us this Sunday (17th 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.

All Altar Servers' Meeting at 11.15am, after 10.00 am Mass tomorrow (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.

Easter Flowers Collection: We shall be holding a collection next weekend for our Easter flowers. Should you wish to donate please put your donation into an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers'. If you wish your donation to be gift aided, please specify this on the envelope and place into the basket, the post box in the entrance when leaving the church or through the Presbytery door. Thank you.

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.

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
17/03/2024	£91.55	£119.08	£476.07	£686.70

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**

CAFOD Feast Day Collection: Thank you to everyone that donated, we have sent a total of £157.52 onto CAFOD.



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

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 16 th March	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Bridget McCreanor R.I.P
Sunday 17 th March	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers for Clair Rava Intentions & prayers of Gerald & Anne Skevington
Tuesday 19 th March <i>Solemnity of St Joseph</i>	Mass 7.30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of all people of the parish
Wednesday 20 th March <i>Lent Feria</i>	Stations of the Cross: 12.00pm Word and Sacrament 12.30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	
Thursday 21 st March <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Funeral Mass: 2.00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the Intentions and prayers for Michael Bambridge Penelope Gaine R.I.P.
Friday 22 nd March <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Holy Hour Adoration: 6.00 pm Stations of the Cross: 7.00 pm and Mass: 7.45 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the Holy Souls For the Prayers and Intentions of Michael Cartin
Saturday 23 rd March <i>Lent Feria</i>	Mass 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	For the sick and our dear ones who are struggling

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

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 23 rd March	Confessions: 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm	Prayers & Intentions of Mary Ngeh (Eileen Wee's sister)
Sunday 24 th March	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions and prayers of Monica Russell Prayers and Intentions of the people of the Parish



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