



# ST TERESA'S

## Newsletter

17th January 2021

My dear friends

The situation in England is alarming- so many new cases of COVID-19 and so many deaths. Let us not forget to keep in our prayers all those who are affected. Those who grieve for a loved one, those who wait anxiously for better news of loved ones seriously ill. I keep you all in my thoughts and prayers and I really hope and pray that you are doing everything you can to keep safe and well.

Here in St Teresa's, we have done all we can to make sure the church is properly stewarded and sanitized. But of course, each person who comes to mass must follow the guidelines very strictly-wear a mask, sanitise their hands, leave the church immediately after the mass. Our stewards are also working really hard to ensure that everyone can worship as safely as possible. However, if you feel that you are especially vulnerable or shielding or even if you feel uncomfortable to come during this third lockdown, when the virus is spreading so quickly, please do remain at home. The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales has clearly stated that there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sunday during these testing times. Do not forget that you can attend mass online and of course pray in the peace and quiet of your own home. Perhaps the weekly reflections in the newsletter may be of help?

Today, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January, we start the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. The Gospel (John 1: 35-42) begins with John's testimony about Jesus. *As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.'* Jesus has just been baptized by John and he is beginning to gather followers. His first followers sought him out because of the witness and testimony of John the Baptist. The gospel recounts the calling of the first disciples.

I think this is such a beautiful Gospel. John points now to Jesus as the Lamb of God and the disciples simply follow him. Just like that? They did not know him but perhaps they felt his mysteriously attractive power. Jesus turns and asks them a question. *'What do you want?'* And they say, *'Where do you live?'* *'Come and see'* is the answer.



It could read as *'Come, and you will see'* because it will take them a lifetime to discover who Jesus is – *'the one who is closest to the Father's Heart.'* This is a life-changing moment for the disciples. They meet Jesus and everything changes. And notice that Jesus does not answer their question with a lecture or a lot of words. He invites them into a relationship. Come and see... They do come and their life changes forever.

We too are invited into that relationship. Do not forget that the Gospel speaks to us today. Jesus is as present to us today as he was to the first disciples. So that question *'What are you looking for?'* is addressed to you and to me today. It is a very searching question. What are the deepest longings of our hearts? Perhaps we can take some time this week to reflect on that question and to share the answer with Jesus.

Jesus turns round and looks at the two disciples. That verb really means to 'look inside', He looks inside their hearts, their souls. His heart and his eyes change the life of both disciples. He is God incarnate, Emmanuel- God with us.

*'No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known' (John 1: 18).* He, who is nearest the Father's heart, has come to be close to each one of us. How much comfort and consolation does that give us in these awful times of the COVID-19 pandemic when we might be tempted to feel alone and abandoned. No, we are not alone. Jesus is Emmanuel-God with us, forever and no matter what is happening.

And that is not all. The disciples are invited to stay with him, *'Come and see'*. That invitation is also offered to us. We are invited to stay with Jesus- forever. Let us take time this week to be still, to be quiet and to allow him to enter our hearts and to stay with us. I am convinced that only his presence can bring us the peace, comfort and healing that each one of us longs for. Andrew was so excited and joyful at this meeting that he could not wait to tell his brother Simon and bring him to Jesus. (And notice that Jesus also looks 'into' Simon and changes his life forever- he calls him Peter and we know the end of that story!)

How can we bring people to Jesus? During this third lockdown, we do not have much opportunity to meet others. But through our prayer we can bring people to Jesus. We can name them and ask him to shower his healing and his blessings on them. We must never underestimate the power of prayer.

Please do stay safe this week. I end with this lovely little prayer that you might perhaps find helpful for this week. (It is from an unknown source)

**O Lord Jesus Christ,  
stay beside me to defend me,  
within me to guide me,  
before me to lead me,  
behind me to guard me,  
and above me to bless me;  
that with you and in you  
I may live and move-  
and have my being,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



May God bless you all.

Fr Lijo

## **School Site for Sale**

Since the closure of the school during the Summer the question of what is to happen with the site on which it stood has come sharply into focus. The Diocese needs to sell the site and wishes to ensure that the Parish continues to flourish into the future. The Parish Buildings & Finance Committee (Fr Lijo, Dcn Seán, John Bolton, Miles Cunningham & Nick Jepson) have made clear to the Diocese our concerns that for the parish to flourish we need similar facilities to the Walsingham Hall and Clubroom if the Hall and Clubroom have to be included in the sale to make the site viable for a purchaser/developer. We have been in discussion with Tony McNiff, Chief Operations Officer of the Diocese, and the Vicar General, Mgr Seán Healy, who has assured us that, “the parish will be consulted as the redevelopment progresses and that sufficient provision for social and outreach facilities will be provided, so that the parish may continue its mission in years to come.”

We are sure that the spirit of open communication and co-operation will continue as plans are developed over the coming months. There will be many concerns and points of view for consideration and the Parish Buildings & Finance Committee are very happy to listen to any questions or views you may wish to make known to them – their contact details are listed below. The committee will continue to keep the parish up to date as and when plans and decisions are made. In the meantime, do not be alarmed by the appearance of a “For Sale” sign in the Car Park.

### **Contact details for the Parish Buildings & Finance Committee:**

**Dcn Seán** – 01844 343705 – [duffyseanm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:duffyseanm@hotmail.co.uk)

**John Bolton** – 01844 343424 – [john.m.bolton@btinternet.com](mailto:john.m.bolton@btinternet.com)

**Miles Cunningham** – 01844 273134 – [Miles.Cunningham@boysie.com](mailto:Miles.Cunningham@boysie.com)

**Nick Jepson** – 01494 891520 – [njepson@btinternet.com](mailto:njepson@btinternet.com)

## **Weekly Notices**

**ST. TERESA’S PARISH CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 2020:** A reminder that the challenge is now over, so please don’t forget to share any photos or accounts of your challenge on the Parish Community Facebook Page. (Full details and links are on the Challenge page of the Parish website.)

**Funds raised** should be posted through the Presbytery door by 31st January. Please place cash or cheques (payable to St. Teresa’s Catholic Church) in an **envelope clearly marked** on the outside with **‘Christmas Challenge’**, your name and the amount raised. A brief description of your challenge would be welcome. Our thanks to those who have already done so. All funds raised will be shared equally between Cafod and our parish.

**Coffee and Company:** if you would like an opportunity to chat to other parishioners, just follow the link below on Tuesday January 19th at 10.30am. Meeting ID: 774 8829 6671 Passcode: EM8390  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77488296671?pwd=aVdIZWhVdWg0TjIrc29JTituSStNZz09>

### **Interesting Resources**

1. Some of you may be interested in reading some of the New Year resolutions taken by people in our Diocese, including Bishop David. Please click on the link below. <https://pastoralministryoffice.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bc09a8cf147cf5273d6595e5e&id=3c213465b1&e=6503f1228c>
2. The God who speaks Bible Campaign has some very fine resources to help us all understand Scripture more. If you have some time to spare you might like to explore this link.  
<https://pastoralministryoffice.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bc09a8cf147cf5273d6595e5e&id=4278f378cb&e=6503f1228c>
3. On 25<sup>th</sup> January, from 7.15-9.00pm there is an online reflection on Pope Francis' call to serve the poor as a fruit of life in the Holy Spirit. This comprises of an evening of praise and worship with Bishop David. I think it will be a lovely, inspiring evening. <https://pastoralministryoffice.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=bc09a8cf147cf5273d6595e5e&id=3c892b0918&e=6503f1228c>
4. The Liturgy Commission invites everyone to take part in a Zoom session exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year on Tuesday, January 19th, 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Please register in advance to secure a place by email [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone: 01582 723312 (ext 1).

**Princes Risborough Food Cupboard:** Thank you all so much for your generous donations. Donations may be made to St Mary's Church Bell Tower, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, or in the trolley at the entrance to Tesco's at any time they're open.

**Things we could do with more of:** Tins of peas (garden, not mushy or marrowfat), Tins of fish, Meat pies (tins), Packets of rice, Packets of dried pasta, Tins of fruit, Tins of rice pudding, Long-life dairy milk (UHT), Jars or packets of coffee, Jars of jam, Packets of biscuits, Washing-up liquid, Toothpaste, Shower gel, Shampoo/conditioner, Nappies – sizes 3 and 4.

**Things we have plenty of, so don't need any more at the moment:** Tins of potatoes, Tins of mushy and marrowfat peas, Egg boxes (empty)

S E C O N D S U N D A Y O F T H E Y E A R			
Saturday 16th January	6: 30 pm	Camilo & Hilda Rocha, RIP	
Sunday 17th January	8: 00 am	The People of the Parish	
	9: 30 am	Michael Lane, RIP	
Monday 18th January	Private Mass	Joseph & Elizabeth Hiff, FM	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Tuesday 19th January	Private Mass	Dolores Bird, FM	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Wednesday 20th January	10: 00 am	John William Grace, FM	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Thursday 21st January	Private Mass	Eileen Flitney, FM	St. Agnes, Martyr
Friday 22nd January	Private Mass	Kathleen Robson, FM	Weekday of Ordinary Time

## **MASS BOOKINGS for Wed 20th and Sat/Sun 23rd/24th January 2021**

**Please: Do wear Masks – Do not come if shielding, symptomatic or self-isolating.**

**Please think carefully –**

about your own vulnerability – and that of others around you –  
before deciding whether to come. At this time, there is no obligation to attend.

**For each booking**, we need: **Names**, which **Mass**, number of **Seats** and **PHONE** number

### **10am Mass on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

**Booking: opens:** 9am on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January

**: closes:** 9am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January

**Email:** [stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

### **Masses at 6.30pm, Saturday 23rd and 8am / 9.30am, Sunday 24th January**

**Booking: opens** 9am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January

**: closes** 9am Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

**Email:** [stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301374 (or answerphone)