



# ST TERESA'S

## Newsletter

24th January 2021

My dear friends

I do hope that all of you are staying safe and well during these testing times of the third lockdown. The number of deaths in England remains alarmingly high, even if the number of infections seems to be slowly decreasing. But there is still so much uncertainty around, especially with these new variants which are appearing in different parts of the world. Hopefully, it will not be too long before more and more of us have at least some protection from the vaccine. I do continue to remember all of you in my thoughts and in my daily prayers. I also pray for you each day when I celebrate my mass.



This Sunday is the third Sunday of Ordinary Time. In 2019, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. For those of you who may be interested to read it, please find below the link the full text of his very inspiring Apostolic Letter, "*Aperuit illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God*". [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu\\_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930\\_aperuit-illis.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html)

Pope Francis is encouraging all of us to place Sacred Scripture at the heart and centre of our lives- Sacred Scripture is such an integral part of our faith, for God speaks to each one of us personally through Scripture.

We hear the beautiful and inspiring words of Scripture each time we come to mass. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of us to thank our fantastic team of readers, who prepare so carefully every week to make sure that the Word of God is proclaimed clearly and so meaningfully.

In the Apostolic Letter '*Aperuit illis*' Pope Francis writes, 'May we never tire of devoting time and prayer to Scripture, so that it may be received "not as a human word but as what it really is, the word of God" (1 Thess 2:13).'

I would like to encourage us all to take time in the coming days and weeks to spend a little bit of time each day praying with the Scriptures, because in doing so I am convinced that we will come closer and closer to Jesus. I particularly love these words from the letter to the Hebrews (4:12-13), '*The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the*

*place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts.'*

When we pray with Scripture, Jesus is so present to us. Of course, he is always present, but in a special way in the Scriptures and those beautiful words of Scripture can comfort us, heal us, encourage us, console us, challenge us and bring us closer and closer to his loving heart. Jesus is the Word of God, Word made flesh for the salvation of the world.

One lovely way of praying with Scripture is Lectio Divina. Some of you may already use this way of praying. In the link below you will find it really well explained- much better than I could in this newsletter! I hope you might find it helpful, especially in this time of lockdown. <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/personal-prayer-life/different-ways-to-pray/lectio-divina/>



This Sunday's Gospel comes from the beginning of Mark (1:34-20). It tells the story of the call of the first four disciples- Mark's version is not the same as John's (Last week's Gospel). In Mark's account, we see Jesus taking the initiative and calling them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' They leave everything immediately to be with Jesus. Perhaps during this week, we might leave everything too, just for a short time to be with Jesus and to allow him to enter our hearts and to speak to us. I really love the Psalm for this week (Psalm 25).

**Lord, make me know your ways.**

**Lord, teach me your paths.**

**Make me walk in your truth and teach me:**

**For you are God my saviour.**

**Remember your mercy, Lord**

**And the love you have shown from of old.**

**In your love remember me,**

**Because of your goodness, O Lord.**

**The Lord is good and upright.**

**He shows the path to those who stray,**

**He guides the humble in the right path,**

**H e t e a c h e s h i s w a y t o t h e p o o r .**



Let us stay with these words – they are so encouraging because they assure us that with our hand in God's hand, we will never go astray. He will always bring us back and guide us on the right path. We too, like the psalmist, might say to the Lord, *In your love remember me, because of your goodness.*

Of course, the Lord never forgets us, never! But, like the psalmist, we might sometimes feel that he has, especially in these testing times. Let us, then, ask him to remember us. Let us call upon his love and his tenderness. Let us ask him to remember our families and friends and all those who are suffering because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us ask him to remember our poor, suffering world. And then, let us just bask in his loving reassuring presence.

I wish you all a beautiful week praying with the Scriptures and I really pray that you will feel consoled and encouraged and be filled with hope and joy.

Fr Lijo

## Weekly Notices

**Bible Service with Bishop David- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 3.00pm:** I encourage you to take part in this livestreamed Bible service with Bishop David on this special Sunday of the Word of God. Bishop David will also bless all Readers so it would be lovely if you are able to join. The link is as follows:  
<https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

### **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. **Introduction to the Gospel of Mark:** This year we read the Gospel of Mark most Sundays. Fr Matt Blake OCD, who until recently was based at St Joseph's, Gerrards Cross, will give a general introduction to Mark's Gospel to help us enter more deeply into the extract we hear each Sunday. He will look at the overall structure of the Gospel and some of its principal themes. The talks will be on Live Stream and YouTube. [www.carmelitechurch.org](http://www.carmelitechurch.org). YouTube "Kensington Carmelite Church". Dates are Wednesdays 20, 27 January and 3, 10 February at 10.00 am and repeated at 8.00 pm. The talk from 20 January is available to view online. Details via the website.

**Parish Diary:** Copies of the 2021 Parish Diary are available in the narthex. If you would like a copy please ask one of the stewards.

**Monthly Development Scheme:** Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unable to run our Monthly Development Scheme for the year 2021 - 22. I know many of you will be disappointed but thank you for understanding but it is just not possible in the present situation.

**Coffee and Company;** if you'd like an opportunity to chat with other parishioners just follow the link below on Tuesday January 28th at 10.30am. Meeting ID: 714 4182 6902 Passcode: KG0TrE  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71441826902?pwd=aElvY3JkeUFuWjNrRGV5YmIDQ3AwZz09>

**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.

**Shopping for the 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 baked beans or spaghetti hoops, Tins of peas (garden, not mushy or marrowfat), Tins of sweetcorn, Tins of other vegetables, Tins of kidney beans etc. (or similar pulses), Tins of soup (other than tomato), Tins of meat, Meat pies (tins), Tins or jars of pasta sauce, Tins or jars of curry sauce, Packets of rice, Tins of fruit, Tins of rice pudding, Tins or cartons of custard, Long-life dairy milk (UHT), Packets of cereal, Packets of tea (preferably 80 bags), Jars of jam, Packets of biscuits, Fruit squash, Toothpaste

**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)

## T H I R D   S U N D A Y   O F   T H E   Y E A R

Saturday 23rd January	6: 30 pm	Ellen Donnelly, RIP	
Sunday 24th January	8: 00 am	Elish Sullivan, RIP	
	9: 30 am	Deacon Sean, Int.	
Monday 25th January	Private Mass	Marie Slattery, RIP	Conversion of St Paul, feast
Tuesday 26th January	Private Mass	The People of the Parish	Timothy & Titus
Wednesday 27th January	10: 00 am	Marie Slattery, RIP	Weekday of Ordinary Time
Thursday 28th January	Private Mass	Clara & David Taylor, Int.	St. Thomas Aquinas
Friday 29th January	Private Mass	Olive Donaldson, FM	Weekday of Ordinary Time

### **MASS BOOKINGS for Wed 27th and Sat/Sun 30th/31st 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 27<sup>th</sup> January**

**Booking: opens:** 9am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**: closes:** 9am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Tuesday 26<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 30th and 8am / 9.30am, Sunday 31st January**

**Booking: opens** 9am Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January

**: closes** 9am Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Confirmation:** by 6pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January

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

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