

**NEWSLETTER 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

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Join our Facebook group: St Teresa's Parish Community Princes Risborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Lijo Jose MSFS

Deacon: Sean Duffy (343705)

Safeguarding Representative - Phil Hughes (345006)

My dear parishioners

As I write this newsletter I am so looking forward to welcoming you back to the public celebration of mass in St Teresa's. As you know since the beginning of the lockdown I celebrated my mass alone every day in the church. You were all so much in my prayers and it will be so wonderful to be able to celebrate mass with you present. I have really missed you!

Of course, it would be lovely if you could all come but as you know we cannot go back to normal. We must comply with the Government's social distancing requirements. Because of that we are limited to fewer number of people at each mass. Our first priority is your safety and I would like to assure you that all the necessary precautions have been taken to keep you safe.

I hope you have found the booking system easy to access. **Please see details below for booking your place for the Masses from Wednesday 29th July 2020.** Remember you must not come if you have Covid 19 symptoms or you feel unwell. And the government still recommends that those over 70 or those who are particularly vulnerable should avoid larger gatherings. The obligation to attend mass on Sundays is still suspended until further notice. So do not feel you have to attend.

On behalf of us all I would once again to say a heartfelt thank you to Deacon Sean and his team of stewards for making the public celebration of mass possible.

Today's gospel comes from Matthew 13: 44-46. It contains two parables about the Kingdom of God.

These are very short parables but I have to admit that they are two of my favourite. Jesus said to his disciples: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. And again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great price- in order to possess it we need to sell everything.

I love these parables because they are full of joy and happiness. Both people find something that is so precious and valuable that they give up everything else to possess what they have found- the treasure and the pearls. I can just imagine the joy on the faces of these two people as they find these treasures- the first quite unexpected, he was not looking for it and the second after a long search. Maybe they were just longing to rush home and tell their families the good news.

Pope Francis has spoken so beautifully about this parable and I just wanted to share with you what he says. For him, "the treasure of the Kingdom of God is the love the Father has given us through Jesus."

When we invite Jesus into our lives we will discover that treasure and as we come to experience his loving, forgiving, consoling presence, we will experience such a wonderful deep joy.

“He is the hidden treasure; he is the pearl of great value. He is the fundamental discovery, which can make a decisive turning point in our lives, filling it with meaning,” The person who knows Jesus, who encounters him personally, remains fascinated and attracted by so much kindness, so much truth, so much beauty, and everything in great humility and simplicity. They do not need to reason, to think, to reflect: they realize immediately the incomparable value of what they have found, and are willing to lose everything to have it.’

I think that expression ‘losing everything’ should not frighten us. I think it means that we let go of anything that prevents Jesus being first in our lives. Whether we are married, single, priest or religious- whatever our vocation in life-we need to put Jesus first. We need to let go of our attachments, our worries, fears, anxieties, hurts, bitterness etc. -lose them to give Jesus first place.

As we read and reflect on this Sunday’s gospel, let’s pray that we will find Jesus, just as the merchant found the pearl. He is so close to us and only waits for us to come to him. We will find him by just opening our hearts to him. ‘Come as you are, that’s how I love you’. And that presence of Jesus, that relationship with Jesus will change us and open us up to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

I end with what Pope Francis says, “Dear brothers and sisters, the joy of having found the treasure of the Kingdom of God shines, you see. The Christian cannot conceal his faith, because it shines through in every word, every gesture, even in the most simple, everyday: it shines, the love that God has given us through Jesus.”

May God bless you all. May that treasure of having found Jesus shine in us. Have a lovely week.

Fr Lijo

## **Bookings for the Masses from Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**N.B. Bookings for Mass will be dealt with on a weekly basis only.**

### **Information required:**

Full name, phone number, number of seats required by household or bubble, choice of Mass.

### **For Mass at 10am on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July:**

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

**: closes** 9am Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation:** by 6pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>

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

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

### **For Masses at 6.30pm Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> or 8am or 10am Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:**

**Booking: opens** 9am Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

**: closes** 6pm Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation:** by 6pm Friday 31<sup>st</sup>

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

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

**Please** only book for one Mass out of the four available, so that every parishioner has the opportunity to come. Multiple requests will be deleted.

**Please** do not attempt to book for any Mass 'in advance' of the times and dates specified. The system will ignore such requests.

**When you receive confirmation:** please see this as a commitment. If you find you cannot attend, you must let Deacon Seán know immediately, in good time for another person to be offered your place.

Thank you.