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St Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Parish Stansted
 (The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ)
 Part of a Registered Charity No. 234092 (BRCDT)
Priest in Charge: Fr. Clement Orang'o Tel. 01279 814 349
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Fourth Sunday of Advent (Weekday Readings Proper)
Eucharist Prayer II Memorial Acclamation -3
In the month of December we welcome the Advent Season with a special attention to the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady: O Mary Conceived without Sin prayer for us who have recourse to thee. Amen.

Date -2024	Time	MASS INTENTIONS OFFERED	LITURGY OF THE DAY
December		Livestreamed	Div. Off. Psalter Week 4
Saturday 21 st	6.00 pm	For Ken Matthew R.I.P & Doreen Frist R.I.P	4 th Advent Sunday Vigil
Sunday 22 nd	8.30 am 10.00 am	For the prayers & intentions of Syliva Lawson &family For the intentions and prayers of people of the parish	4th Advent Sunday
Monday 23 rd	9.00 am	For all our parishioners & friends struggling is any way	Advent 23 rd December
Tuesday 24 th	9.00 am	Our departed souls & those we dearly miss at this time	Advent 24 th December
Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Intentions of all our parishioners, families and friends	Christmas Vigil Mass
Midnight Mass	11.30pm	Our departed souls & those we dearly miss at this time	Christmas Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.30 am	Intentions of all our parishioners, families and friends	Christmas Day Mass
Christmas Day	10.00 am	Intentions of all our parishioners, families and friends	Christmas Day Mass
Friday 27 th	11.00 am 12.00pm	Holy Hour of ADORATION – Everyone is invited For Miss Margaret Aldridge R.I.P (Tony's sister)	CONFESSIONS The Holy Innocents
Saturday 28 th	6.00 pm	For Athur Kemp R.I.P	St Thomas of Canterbury
Sunday 29 th	8.30 am 10.00 am	Our departed souls & those we dearly miss at this time Intentions of all our parishioners, families and friends	Holy Family Sunday Year C

The Heroes of Christmas: The Shepherd were the first to see Jesus. Yet, compared to the rest of humanity, these poor farmers were the nobodies at the time. They were insignificant and spent their nights in the cold whilst everyone else was enjoying a good night's sleep. God chose these poor shepherds to be the first witnesses and bearers of **"the good news of great joy that will be for all the people"** (Luke 2:10).

Only the Gospel of Luke mentions the role played by the Shepherds in an account of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew avoids any mention of the poor Shepherds and, in fact, replaces them with the Kings (Magi) in the infancy narratives. The Gospels of Mark and John tell us nothing about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

During this new Liturgical year of St Luke (Year C), we see God's preference of revealing himself to and walking with the poor people. God's message and task to everyone couldn't be any clearer - helping the poor people at the centre of serving God and finding God. Aware of God's preferred choice of the humble and the poor as his messengers, St James explains the meaning of true religion: Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you (James 1:27). **The big Christmas question and challenge is this: Who am I helping?**

Jubilee Year 2025 Theme: Pilgrims of Hope. Let us go on Pilgrimage individually or/and as a group. Every 25 Years the Church celebrates a Jubilee Year (Holy Year). Pope Francis has said this Jubilee year will start on Christmas Eve 2024 until 6th of January 2026. Everyone is invited to do something special as a witness and pilgrim of HOPE in this world. As a parish, let us all participate in the events to be announced to celebrate the Jubilee Year. I am inviting everyone to join me and Bishop Alan on a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes that takes place on **Fri 18-Fri 25 July 2025**. As a reminder that we are all pilgrims passing through this world, we are encouraged to do a Retreat, go on a Pilgrimage to special places and do Works of Mercy. Pope Francis has said: "Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for the meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life."

Confessions Saturdays at 5.15 pm to 5.45pm

Offertory: Thank you very much for your generous support. Cheques are made payable to: **Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas**. For online donations, our parish Account Number: **41017519**, Sort Code: **401322**, and account name: **Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas**.

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Order	Total Collection
22/12/24	£124.00	£191.05	£444.00	£759.05

Sacramental Preparations: Please note that the new dates for the preparatory lessons will be announced in the new year 2025.

Helping the poor: Please send your items to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, St Fidelis Friary, Killip Close, Canning Town, E16 1LX. Telephone 0207 4740766. In the measurements of M, L, XL and XXL: Socks, T-shirts, Jeans, bottom Tracksuits, Sweaters, shoes (only trainers and walking boots), Jackets, Small Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, tooth paste, tooth brushes, razers, shaving foam, Rollin deodorant), underwear (this is the only item that must be new). **NOTE:** There are 90% men and 10% women.

Thank you for your Christmas Offering: The tradition in the diocese is that your Christmas offering is treated as a gift given to the priest in gratitude for his work and ministry in the parish. It is the main source of his income for his needs. Thank you very much for your cards and offering. They are very much appreciated.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO ONE AND ALL for your help and support. Thank you very much for volunteering to help the parish with your time, your services and donations.

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