

## Parish Note Friday 15 January 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter

Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

Fri 1/15/2021 3:35 PM

To: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

 1 attachments (15 KB)

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter which can also be found on our website.

Whilst wearing a face mask for most of the day, one of the main thing that I notice when greeting fellow mask wearers, are the tops of their heads and their 'smiling' eyes. Apparently William Shakespeare once said, '*Your eyes are the windows to your soul*' and in the Holy Gospel, St Matthew teaches us that, '*The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light*'..

At the weekend, with the above passage floating around my head ( hoping that my grubby windows were not a direct correlation of my sometimes mischevious soul) I was shamed into cleaning my external glassware. A brief ray of sunlight had hit the double-glazed patio doors of my small, south facing garden, beautifully illuminating the feathered, yet artistic, dusty outline of ' Big Pigeon' and 'Chum', resident daily diners at my bird table. Whilst hosting the only real visitors to my home for nearly a year, both of them, by chance, had bashed into the window some months earlier, leaving perfect imprints. Sadly, I could not keep them any longer and they had to go, so, I dutifully filled a bucket of hot soapy water and with my window wiper blade extraordinaire in hand, started on the task ahead, sponging and swirling the glass clean, as the water dribbled down my forearm. I even carefully avoided the spiders who seemingly had set up some sort of fluffy, orange commune in the corners, not wishing to disturb, squash or evict them, although very tempted. Feeling rather pleased with my efforts, I returned indoors for a well-earned cup of tea only to see that the inside of the glass was just as bad and also needed attention. Armed now with 'Windowlene clear spray' ( not the sweet smelling pink stuff that I remember as a child and in later life used to daub on the glass when we could not afford curtains) I started again. Having a lint free cloth( and not a yellow duster or old t shirt) seemed to be the secret, It said ' streak free shine' on the bottle, but it lied.. I remember my Mother telling me that she used to use newspaper and white vinegar, so I grabbed the remnants of the broad sheet and had a go, with disastrous results, as the paper seemed to leave a greyish sludge trail.. I'm not sure if it was my 'chosen read' or 'operator error' but am pleased to eventually report that my windows,eyes ( and hopefully my soul) are now sound..

**SUSPENSION OF MASS AT HOLY CROSS MUCH HADHAM** -We are sorry to announce that in agreement with the Rector, PPC and Church Warden at St Andrew's, Much Hadham, there will be no Anglican or Catholic services, or opening for private prayer there, during the current government lockdown.

We expect to recommence the celebration of Mass at Holy Cross after the lockdown has been lifted. Weekday Masses at 9.30am and Mass at 6pm Saturday and 9am Sunday, will continue at St Joseph's. For booking places at these Masses, please go the [Events](#) page.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** - Ann Neary RIP and June Litczynski RIP, well-loved parishioners who both sadly died recently. We have also heard the news that Bishop Moses Hamungole RIP from the Diocese of Monze in Zambia has died in Lusaka from COVID-19 at the age of 53 years old. Parishioners have supported many of the community projects in this local area of Zambia in recent years and continue to do so.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace Amen.*

Please also remember all those that are currently sick or in hospital, the children and residents at St Elizabeth's Centre, all those currently isolated in care homes, our housebound, elderly and frail and all those who care for them.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Robert and Anne McClean who celebrate 54 years of marriage this coming week. We extend our love and prayers to you both.

**PEACE SUNDAY** - Pax Christi's celebration of the Holy Father's World Peace Day message takes place this Sunday 17th January 2021. Please click on the link for the Holy Father's message [https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/papa-francesco\\_20201208\\_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.pdf](https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.pdf)

**ZOOM** - Thank you to John and our 9am Sunday Mass Musicians who join together each week to celebrate the livestreaming of the Mass via Zoom, followed by a virtual tea/coffee afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join, please click on the link below.

Topic: Family Mass via Zoom during lock-down (music starting at 8:45am)

Time: Jan 17, 2021 08:30 AM London

Every week on Sun, until Apr 4, 2021, 13 occurrence(s)

Jan 17, 2021 08:30 AM

Jan 24, 2021 08:30 AM

Jan 31, 2021 08:30 AM

Feb 7, 2021 08:30 AM

Feb 14, 2021 08:30 AM

Feb 21, 2021 08:30 AM

Feb 28, 2021 08:30 AM

Mar 7, 2021 08:30 AM

Mar 14, 2021 08:30 AM

Mar 21, 2021 08:30 AM

Mar 28, 2021 08:30 AM

Apr 4, 2021 08:30 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-G0qT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtlclcgqd0tE\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-G0qT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtlclcgqd0tE_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89508074176?pwd=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 0807 4176

Passcode: 2021

One tap mobile

+442039017895,,89508074176#,,,,\*2021# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 895 0807 4176

Passcode: 2021

**THE DAD'S GROUP** - are currently meeting on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom.

The Zoom Meeting details are:

Topic: Dad's Group



Every month on the Second Tue, 8 occurrence(s)

Feb 9, 2021 08:00 PM

Mar 9, 2021 08:00 PM

Apr 13, 2021 08:00 PM

May 11, 2021 08:00 PM

Jun 8, 2021 08:00 PM

Jul 13, 2021 08:00 PM

Aug 10, 2021 08:00 PM

Sep 14, 2021 08:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89665153775?pwd=YUgyV00yd2pnS3htNTJGTzJkNzIDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 6515 3775

Passcode: 001205

**A CATHOLIC FORMATION' LENT COURSE'** - During Advent, the Dad's Group ran an exciting new Catholic formation course, Sycamore. We are now looking ahead to Lent and planning on running a six-week course on Zoom with all new content!

The course is structured to provide parishioners with the opportunity to share and grow in their faith together as a community. Each week we will come together, sharing our news and a prayer, before we watch a short video about the week's topic, breaking briefly during the video to reflect as small groups on the topic.

The Lent Course will run every Wednesday for 6 weeks, starting on Wednesday February 24th at 7:30pm.

Please feel free to invite your friends/family from both inside and outside the parish. We are looking forward to sharing this exciting new course with you all!

If you want to know more about Sycamore before the course, all the Sycamore resources are freely available on-line at: <https://www.sycamore.fm/>

There is also feedback on the Advent course from parishioners on the parish website

There is no need to have attended the Advent course, or to attend all 6 weeks of the Lenten courses.

#### **Session 1: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

Why bother thinking about religion? Five reasons not to believe in God. Arguments for the existence of God?

#### **Session 2: WHO IS JESUS?**

He came to bring life to the world. The Saving Death of Jesus. The light of the Resurrection.

#### **Session 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH**

How the Holy Spirit can change your life. No one gets into heaven alone. Why we need signs, symbols and sacraments.

#### **Session 4: THE GIFT OF FAITH**

What is faith? Are there good reasons to believe? How to take a step of faith.

## Session 5: FINDING TRUE FREEDOM

Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

## Session 6: THE MEANING OF LOVE

What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

If you are interested in attending the course, please contact: John Wright (johncharles.wright70@gmail.com) or David Wilkinson (wilkinsondavid@mac.com) or the Parish Office to register and get the Zoom login details.

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:-** To have the Catholic Universe or the Catholic Times delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£25.00 12 Months:- £99.00 OR DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months: £55.00

**ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL** - hope to raise £100k towards the new school building and need your help please! Click on the link below to donate any amount from £5 to £1k. St Joseph's school began in 1909. Your contributions will benefit the many children who will continue to pass through its doors now and in the future. Thank you.

[St. Joseph's New School \(virginmoneygiving.com\)](http://St.Joseph's.New.School(virginmoneygiving.com))

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** - The next online meeting on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm which will be hosted by **Rev. Dr David Chapman, Chair of Churches Together in Hertfordshire and there will be a short service of prayer led by Bishop Paul McAleenan**. Everyone is welcome so please do share the invitation

Topic: Churches Together in Hertfordshire Prayer Meeting

Time: Jan 18, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85476164857?pwd=RHhTa3VrdWh1NjRSSzFONUxJTBhQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7616 4857

Passcode: 850163

Throughout the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we will also be sharing prayers and reflections from Christians across the county online so please do join us on Twitter and Facebook and “like”, “share” and “retweet” these posts to help encourage others in prayer for greater Christian Unity. <http://www.ctherts.org.uk/>

**GLOBAL HEALING** -The Global Catholic Movement invites you to “Global Healing.” In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si’*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource “Global Healing”. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis’ call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

When? Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm How to join? To register please visit <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuuzqsvEtMBwz2hxBzhvwy0hcgyoEb>

or email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global) Hosted by GCCM *Laudato Si’* Animators in the UK.



**SAWBRIDGEWORTH EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH(SEC)**are looking to start a community pop up shop, where those whose budgets are stretched can come to the Church and fill up a shopping bag for free. They are seeking donations of toiletry items, toothpaste, shampoo,nappies, sanitary products, washing powder,wipes, powdered milk, tinned foods,tea, coffe, squash, pasta , rice etc and also coats, hats, duvets and bedding. Donations can be deposited at the SEC, London Rd Sawbridgeworth on Wednesday 12-1pm or Saturday 9-10am or alternativel Mackays in Bell Street on Monday/ Tuesday/ thursday and Friday 10am-12pm. Please call 01279 722373 for more info or email [office@secchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@secchurch.org.uk)

**MARRIED SINGLES LIFESTYLE** –The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. 'Retrouvaille' teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This programme has helped 10s of thousands of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25th – 28th February 2021, Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 or Email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**SPUC COLLECTION ON LINE** - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be making their annual White Flower Appeal this weekend, 16 and 17 Jan. SPUC is campaigning to stop home abortion which provides abortion pills to take at home without medical supervision. You can help SPUC to defeat this latest attack on the unborn, and protect mothers from increased risk of coercion, by donating on line at [www.spuc.org.uk/donate](http://www.spuc.org.uk/donate) or by direct transfer SPUC PRO LIFE, 40-07-13 a/c 51170546 Ref 381301.

**SCAM MESSAGE WARNING** - Scammers have been contacting elderly people in Hertfordshire claiming they can arrange Covid-19 vaccinations for a fee. Herts Constabulary is reminding residents that the NHS is the only organisation that has access to the vaccine and will never ask for payment. If you receive any unsolicited messages or calls, you should always be sceptical. Avoid clicking links in text and email messages – check out the website directly via a search engine to make sure you are visiting a genuine site.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, report it to 0300 123 2040 or online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**VACANCY AT ST ELIZABETH'S** - Lay Chaplain. Salary - £29,909 - £33,071 We are currently recruiting for a Lay Chaplain to join us here St Elizabeth's Centre. Working alongside our Senior Leadership Team you will be responsible for ensuring the Catholic identity of the centre is developed and celebrated. Closing Date: Wednesday 10th February 2021 Interview Dates: w/c 22nd February 2021

To apply and to find out more information about St Elizabeth's, please visit our website: [www.stelizabeths.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths.org.uk) or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role.

**ST ELIZABETH'S ENTERPRISE SHOP** - For handmade gifts, crafts, ceramics and even delicious apple juice please visit St Elizabeth's Enterprise shop <https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk/services-for-adults/enterprise-shop/>

**STREET PASTORS** - Lockdown has kept us at home recently, but we have continued with our full training programme and have met online to pray and consider how we will meet the needs of others when we are back out on patrol. We know we are going to be busier than ever as people struggle with the effects of the pandemic. We want EVERY Church in Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounding villages to be involved in our work. Most of all, we need your prayers. We ask that you cover our work in prayer; in your services, your house groups and in your homes.

Our current priority is to appoint a new Secretary and a new Treasurer. Could you help us? Our Management Team meet about 4 times per year, so it is not very onerous. Support will be given. Although times are hard for us all, we do ask every Church to make a financial commitment to us each year. It costs around £7,000 to keep our organisation running. Donations from individuals are also welcome.

How about joining us as a volunteer—a Street Pastor or a Prayer Pastor? Email [bishopsstortford@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@streetpastors.org.uk)

**YOUNG CARITAS** -The first event of the year will be a Virtual Pub Quiz and Social on 26th January at 6.30pm. This event is open to young people aged 18-30, interested in meeting others with a passion for social justice. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/132916957197>

**SUPPORT FOR CATECHISTS** - The series of monthly online reflection evenings, reflecting with Saints and Blesseds of Catechesis, continues on Monday 1st February, from 7.30pm to 8.15pm, via Zoom. Registration essential in order to receive the link. Register at [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk)

**CCRS FOR CATECHISTS**- In conjunction with Westminster Education Service, this additional 18-month/2-year formation course is available for catechists with professional modules in catechesis. The next course begins 1st as soon as possible; for bursary application forms, contact Anna Dupelycz at [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk). [ccrs@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ccrs@rcdow.org.uk) as soon as possible; for bursary application forms, contact Anna Dupelycz at [annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:annadupelycz@rcdow.org.uk).

#### **A THANK YOU FROM THE ST FRANCIS CENTRE**

*Dear Parishioners ,*

*I would like to express my gratitude to you and all who were involved in the donation of such wonderful Christmas presents that each child received at St. Francis Family Centre.*

*The care and generosity shown to all the families was very much appreciated.*

*I would like to thank all the parishioners who so kindly took the time to search Amazon and send each present, especially in such unprecedented times.*

*All our families were amazed and very appreciative that not only had all the parishioners thought about them but they had taken the time to ensure that their child received a gift which brought joy and excitement and made such a difference to their Christmas.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family, and friends every blessing for the coming year.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*Margaret Wilkinson*

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week, Alba, Alison, Brian, Charlotte, Gregory, Irene, Joel, Mark, Sophie, Tessa and Tracy deserve huge thanks as they have continued to help to clean the Church after Mass to ensure that we remain COVID-19 secure. Thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication. It is very much appreciated!

To finish this week, Pauline Haynes has kindly shared a lovely poem by Harold Thurman - Thank you Pauline!

*When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled*

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.*



I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy week

Best wishes

Debbie

**Parish Administrator**

*(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)*

**Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford**

*St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford*

*Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham*

*Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth*

3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2ND

Telephone: 01279 654063

*email: [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk)*

*Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>*

*Follow our Live streaming on [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)*

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