

Parish Note Friday 29 January 2021 and a Special Message from Bishop Paul McAleenan on Racial Justice Sunday

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

Mon 2/1/2021 8:16 AM

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

Good afternoon

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. Please find attached a special message from Bishop Paul McAleenan, who is our lead Bishop for Racial Justice. The message can also be found on the news section of our website.

'Be the light in the darkness' has been a positive phrase that I have heard, seen and reflected on this week being the theme of the National Holocaust Memorial Day and at a time where we have seen the tragic loss of over one hundred thousand precious lives in our country from COVID-19. Every Tuesday at 8pm St Mary's School encourage their pupils, staff and school community to pray together during the pandemic and place a candle in the window showing their support. Wonderful images of the lit candles are often uploaded to their Twitter site.

Another symbol synonymous with hope are the beautiful spring flowers which are now already starting to bloom and especially snowdrops. When I was a young child, I had a small patch of the family garden which I was responsible for and the very first plants that I ever grew were snowdrops. I remember fondly the fun that I had planting the bulbs with my Mother, then the feeling of impatience when not seeing any instant results, followed by the eventual excitement of witnessing the delicate flowers emerge. I spent many happy hours outside playing and enjoyed seeing the garden change throughout the seasons. It was a safe place of fun, adventure and learning with many visiting animals, birds and insects including 'Hoppity', the one-legged blackbird, 'Bib' the cat, and 'Scruff' the neighbouring Jack Russell, a plump, friendly little dog and real loveable rogue. He would often trot up and down the road adorned with various coloured pen marks including noughts and crosses on his grubby off-white coat, courtesy of the large family of children who owned him, looking for treats and a bit of fuss. Our very territorial cat however was not too happy about 'Scruff' coming into the garden and so would jump on his back and dig in her claws resulting in him running off at full pelt, still with a mounted 'feline jockey' onboard - it was quite a spectacle and one that happened most days!

Seeing the snowdrops return again this week after their yearlong sleep brought about some much-needed cheer and the return of happy memories as well as the research of some fun facts courtesy of the National garden scheme..

Snowdrops, by their Greek name are known as 'Galanthus' which translates to Milk Flower.

There are more than 2,500 varieties.

A single *Galanthus plicatus* 'Golden Fleece' sold for £1,390 on eBay in 2015. Rare snowdrop varieties are not usually easy to propagate, hence the hefty price tag per bulb!

There is a naturally occurring substance within the plant, called galantamine, used to help treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, although the bulbs themselves are poisonous.

It is said that they are symbolic of spring, purity and religion, the triple petals of the plant representing the Holy Trinity.

Snowdrops are one of the first flowers to appear in the new year. In the northern hemisphere snowdrops can be seen appearing as early as January, weather permitting. They usually flower between the months of January and April.

Collecting snowdrop bulbs in the wild is illegal in many countries.

The snowdrop isn't a UK native. They became fashionable in the Victorian era but, due to it being known under several different names, no one knows for sure, when they were first introduced to the UK. The first records of plants in the wild date from 1778 – but botanist John Gerard is said to have described the snowdrop in his writings from 1597...

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - the family and friends of Raffaele Di Giovanni, Michael Kinsella and Christine Brown who sadly died recently.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE SUSPICIOUS EMAILS - There is a new kind of phishing attempt via emails purporting to be from the NHS. The scammers are taking advantage of COVID-19 and mass vaccination and sending out emails. If you receive such an email..

- Please be cautious before you take action, like clicking any links in the email.
- Please pay extra attention on the sender's email address.
- A genuine email address will end with a genuine domain name for example, emails from NHS will end with "nhs.uk" anything other than this and pretends to be from NHS, is not genuine, it is suspicious.
- If in doubt, please ring up your GP and confirm.
- Do not ring any telephone numbers taken from the suspicious email. Use telephone numbers taken from a trusted source. (for example, your GP has given you a number to ring for vaccination)
- Do not reply to the suspicious email, use other forms of communication methods to get in touch with the NHS.

Joint advice from the NHS and law enforcement agencies on protecting yourself from COVID-19 cons

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is free of charge. At no point will you be asked to pay.

The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.

The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.

The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.

The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

The NCSC is asking people to report suspect emails to its Suspicious Email Reporting Service simply by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk. All emails forwarded to the service are analysed and if they are found to link to malicious content, it will be taken down or blocked, helping prevent future victims of crime.

The Suspicious Email Reporting Service is a world first which was launched last April by the NCSC in conjunction with the City of London Police. It has now received more than four million emails from the public, leading to the removal of over 26,000 scams and over 49,000 links to malicious content.

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 31, 2021 08:30 AM London

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

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-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtilcgqd0tE_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtilcgqd0tE_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=YUgyV00yd2pnS3htNTJGTzJkNzIDQOT09>

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 attendees 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 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

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/tJcvcOuugzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhhvwy0hcgyoEb>

or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the 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 - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.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 or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role.

RIGHT TO LIFE - A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below:

www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

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

CARITAS VOLUNTEER EVENT- “Step Forward in Love” Online Event Wednesday 10 February from 11am -1pm
Whether you want to try volunteering for the first time or are looking for a new role, come and find out what volunteering opportunities are out there at the moment.
Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caritas-volunteer-fair-tickets-135713539851>

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Make it your New Year’s resolution to read the entire Bible in 2021. In the Bible in a Year podcast, Fr Mike Schmitz from Ascension walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way. Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension’s Bible in a Year Podcast follows a reading plan inspired by The Great Adventure Bible Timeline, a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. With this podcast, you won’t just read the Bible in a year ... you’ll finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

See our website for more info -<https://rcstortford.org.uk/bible-in-a-year/>

DAILY WALK? DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR CAFOD THIS LENT - Could you walk 10000 Steps either on one day or everyday this Lent? The walk could be a sign of your solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source and who have to walk for water each day. Find out more or sign up online at cafod.org.uk/walk and go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty.

One minute film also available here:

Walk for Water video:

[Walk for Water: Abdella's journey | CAFOD - YouTube](#)

LENT EXTRA - We are unable to offer this magazine in church at present, but it can be ordered online from Redemptorist Publications. 'Perhaps, in Lent 2021, Lent Extra might help us to experience Jesus travelling with us towards Easter, filling us with hope. May it be a friend who offers encouragement, support and joy on a road which will have challenges as well as blessings.' Cost: £2.25 + pp.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week, I would like to pay tribute to Mike Carroll and Martin Curran from our Finance Committee, who have been working extremely hard to balance our books and manage the budget for the past year, also submitting the end of year Annual financial return to the Diocese, which is a very time-consuming and labour-intensive task. HUGE thanks and much gratitude to you both :)

To finish this week..

*The light of God surrounds us,
The love of God enfolds us,
The power of God protects us,
The presence of God watches over us,
Wherever we are, God is,
And where God is, all is well.*

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

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Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth*

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Follow our Live streaming on www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford

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