


Parish Note Friday 12th February 2021 and a Pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols regarding Ash Wednesday

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

Fri 2/12/2021 5:22 PM

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

 2 attachments (101 KB)

210214 Pastoral Letter - Ash Wednesday.pdf; Ash Wednesday At Home.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached a Pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols regarding Ash Wednesday which can also be found on the news section of our website. There is a further attachment 'Ash Wednesday at home' courtesy of Fr Chris Vipers, the Director of the Agency for Evangelisation.

Well, it's been an interesting week with a few amusing highlights to make us smile. We now know who Jackie Weaver from Handforth parish council is and witnessed her 'authority' in putting the self-elected Clerk on the 'naughty Zoom step'. We also saw a Texan Lawyer who had issues with his Zoom account appearing before a judge in a virtual court, as a fluffy, doe eyed kitten whilst trying to seriously convince everyone that he was not a cat! Then, we had a fleeting visit from the 'Beast from the East' bringing a gift of snow, ice and chilly temperatures of -3 and colder..

I must admit to secretly finding the snow rather exciting, watching the delicate, fluffy, flakes fall from the sky and newly settle. It's not so much fun however being cold or trying to travel in it, especially when the roads and pavements are slippery and full of ice, but I like it all the same. It's always a good excuse to have a hot chocolate too, with a few added sprinkles and a biscuit or three to accompany it! One of my very earliest memories, is sometime in the late 60's, when we were snowed in at home, with both the front and back doors completely blocked. I remember my Mother picking me up and passing me through the kitchen window, our only method of escape, to the waiting arms of my Father and the sense of being securely snuggled up inside his warm coat.

On Monday, I had a very fresh and invigorating walk down to the Church, negotiating the frozen icy stretches hoping not to fall over. There were small crystal-clear icicles along the hedgerow, and it was wonderful to see a variety of different footprints left in the snow, from giant human sized yeti feet, dog paw prints, hopping birds and evidence of the odd snow angel. As I approached the parish centre, there were squirrel tracks and what even looked like the scurrying toes of our pet Church mouse too, who often frequents Cardinals walk at the same time that I do. All footprints certainly tell a tale. The stone step at the side door of St Joseph's, before the tread was replaced, was completely worn by the invisible footsteps and memories of parishioners and visitors to the church over the last century. If only it could talk! The threshold at the front of the Church has also welcomed many a new-born to be baptised, hundreds of excited Childrens feet, eagerly awaiting to receive their First Holy Communion, beautiful Brides in their wedding gowns along with the tears and final blessing of those we have known and loved who have since passed, as well as many Priests, Brothers, Sisters and visiting Clergy from all parts of the world. Even though not all of those footprints have left a visible trace on the floor, many have left a special emotional and spiritual imprint deep in our hearts and minds and ones that will last forever..

BIRTHDAY WISHES AND PRAYERS - There are lots of 'special' birthdays this week. We send our love, prayers and many congratulations to Doreen Brown, Anne McLean, Joan Zurenkas, Fr Peter(Monday) and also Fr Antonio (Thursday). We hope that you have a wonderful time, albeit during lockdown!

CONGRATULATIONS - to Nicola and David from our 11am choir who welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world this morning. Sending our love and prayers to you all.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - the family and friends of Yvonne Aiton RIP and Mary Clark RIP of our parish who very sadly died recently.

Eternal rest grant unto Yvonne and Mary 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.

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY ADMISSIONS 2021- 2022 -Applications are now welcome from families whose child reaches their third birthday between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 for our new nursery class starting in September 2021.

We offer three forms of provision each day- a core offer of 15 hours, extended offer of 30 hours and extended plus offer of 34 hours per week.

Unfortunately, due to COVID19 restrictions, we will not be offering any live visits to the school at this moment. However, we will be offering remote sessions to meet with Mr Coldwell, Headteacher, and hear more about our amazing school.

For more details and to access a copy of the application form, please see the school website

<https://www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery+Admissions+2021%2D2022&pid=1165>

On-time applications close on Friday 12th March 2021

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE- Applicants for St Joseph's School for NURSERY places in 2021/22 should download an application for a Certificate of Catholic Practice which can be found on our parish website. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of No 3 Windhill marked for Fr Peter's attention **with a stamped addressed envelope please**. The Certificate will then be posted to you. No personal collection of the certificate is permitted. The School deadline is 12/03/2021

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: Feb 14, 2021 08:30 AM London

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

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/join/tZ0od-GoqT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwitlccgqd0tE_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, 7 occurrence(s)

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 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.

WESTMINSTER YOUTH MINISTRY: SYCAMORE COURSE - We are encouraging our young people this Lent to join the Westminster Youth Ministry team by forming a group and taking part in Sycamore – an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today – and we would like our students to join to learn more as they grow on their spiritual journey as young adults.

Sycamore gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. Each session involves a short, thought-provoking film about the big questions of life and the central beliefs of the Christian faith. The films are beautifully produced in locations around the UK.

The main presentation is by Fr Stephen Wang, a Catholic priest and popular speaker. There are street interviews with people from very different backgrounds, giving a fresh perspective on the big questions. There are guest speakers sharing their experiences. And every few minutes a question pops up on the screen to get the discussion going.

The length of the course will be 6 weeks and each session will be from 7:30-9pm. A typical Sycamore session involves:

- some online conversation to get things started;
- a short film;
- some informal discussion in small groups

Students will need to register for the sessions on the Westminster Youth website– the link is here: <https://dowym.com/events/sycamore-lent-course/>

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/join/zoom/register/tJcvcOuuqzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhhvwy0hcgyoEb>

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

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.

NEW TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT -the **Portland Child Contact Centre** - We are a supported Child Contact Centre based in Bishop's Stortford, seeking to refresh our team with enthusiastic volunteers. Can you help us in any of the following skills areas? **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** • Chair designate – to lead the team, oversee the work of the volunteer co-ordinator, enthuse the volunteers and ensure viability as we re-open after a period closed due to Covid-19 • Treasurer • Trustee with experience of volunteer recruitment, volunteer management and training • Trustee with a counselling, mentoring or chaplaincy background • Trustee to act as health and safety lead • Secretary/minute-taker

SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS - at the **Portland Child Contact centre** - Would you like to be a member of our Saturday team, helping to facilitate contact between children and their estranged parent (and sometimes other family members)? The usual time commitment is from 9.15 to 12.15 once a month on Saturday

mornings. For more information, an informal chat or an application form please contact the Co-ordinator, Lynne Ling, on 07766 627765 or portlandccc@outlook.com DEADLINE: 28 February 2021 Interviews will be held in March and Management Committee appointments will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in May. All appointments are subject to DBS clearance. We are a long-established Child Contact Centre, accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres. We are committed to avoid discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, religion, nationality, language and age

MEMORIAL MASS FOR CANON EDDIE RIP - On 1st April 2021, it will be the first anniversary of Canon Eddie RIP. We had hoped to arrange a Memorial Mass and evening celebration, but regrettably it has been decided to postpone this until a future time where we are able to congregate in larger numbers and without restrictions. We will keep everyone posted with a future update once in a position to do so.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week, David Morson who is well known and much loved by many in our parish, but also at St Theresa's in Stansted, is our Parishioner of the week! David has very kindly shared with us his reflection of a journey through St John's Gospel to Holy week. This is being added on to our web site and is a fabulous read. Thank you very much David!!

To finish this week, albeit not snow, it seems appropriate to include the 'Footprints in the Sand' poem..

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, you would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*

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

Best wishes
Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)