

Sunday message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday of Lent

There are sides of us that only our best friends have seen, or things about us that only they know. Best friends are privileged because they get to see the real and the whole of us, not just the image that we like to project to the rest of society. This is what happened at the Transfiguration in the Gospel this Sunday: Jesus revealed Himself to three of His closest friends – Peter, James and John – in a way He had not done before. He revealed Himself as they would know Him in heaven. For that brief period of time, the privileged three disciples saw His heavenly glory on earth. It was both to strengthen them for what was to come (suffering and death) and to give them a glimpse of the heavenly life to which they were called. It was a moment of special grace and revelation.

We don't have to be Peter, James or John to witness Christ's Transfiguration. All of us are given opportunities in our day-to-day lives to see Jesus' power and glory by looking at the world around us. Jesus wants us to be His best friends, to see Him as He really is. Just as His face shone like the sun and His clothes dazzled with whiteness during the Transfiguration, He wants to be for us a bright, shining light to follow and to give us hope, especially when darkness seems to envelop us. He is a light that never dims, a light that never disappears. It is just sometimes, we allow ourselves to lose sight of that light. But like a true best friend, Christ is just waiting for us to call to bring light back into our lives.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*

## Parish Note Friday 26th February 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday of Lent

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

Fri 2/26/2021 3:32 PM

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

 1 attachments (26 KB)

Sunday message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday of Lent.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio for the second Sunday of Lent which can also be found on the news section of our web site.

Well, February is almost nearly over, and we now have a very welcome HM Government 'road map' set out for the way ahead, hopefully, with all being well. The weather this last week has been absolutely glorious with stunning evening skies and the ground dry enough to catch up with a few overdue jobs in the garden. Spring is well and truly here with new shoots and bulbs starting to burst through. My resident birds, 'Big pigeon' and 'Chum' have had to share their daily offerings with a host of new friends who have started to re-visit the garden, including what I think was a Red kite, gliding over the top of the house with its vast wingspan. Interestingly, a black-browed babbler bird of Indonesia which is one of Asia's least known species and thought to be extinct, has recently been sighted in a Bornean jungle 180 years after it was last seen. It is believed to be one of the world's most elusive songbirds and was stumbled upon by two local men. What an amazing find! Perhaps there is a Bishop's Stortford equivalent?

My favourite tree is the Cherry blossom which I have loved since I was a child and I look forward to them blooming each year, so, I was very happy to read that the National Trust will be planting a series of 'Blossom circles' around the UK as a symbol of reflection and hope. The first site at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic park in the same borough as the temporary Nightingale hospital, will commemorate all those who have tragically lost their lives in the pandemic as a living memorial. There are another three blossom spaces planned for Newcastle, Nottingham and Plymouth. From cherry, plum, hawthorn and crab apple trees, I'm sure that the delicate blooms will bring a much-needed boost of cheerful colour and a lasting reminder of thanksgiving, peace and enjoyment in each city...

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS-** the family and friends of Darren Poole RIP who sadly died recently.

*Eternal rest grant unto Darren O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he 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

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=YUgyV0Qyd2pnS3htNTJGTzJkNzIDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 6515 3775

Passcode: 001205

## **LENT COURSES**

### **A CATHOLIC FORMATION' LENT COURSE' -**

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 and started 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/>

### **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](mailto:johncharles.wright70@gmail.com)) or David Wilkinson ([wilkinsondavid@mac.com](mailto:wilkinsondavid@mac.com)) or the Parish Office to register and get the Zoom login details.



**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](http://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](#)

**CAFOD LENT APPEAL**- Please donate online at [www.cafod.org.uk/give](http://www.cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of our envelopes.

You can also easily give via text.

Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5

Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10

Text LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20

Or Telephone: 0303 303 3030 to donate over the phone \*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see our Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)

**PERMANENT DIACONATE COME AND SEE** - Men interested in finding out more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two-hour session on a Saturday from 10am to 12pm on one of the following dates: 17th April at St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green, 22nd May at St Anthony of Padua, Radlett or 19th June at Vaughan House, Victoria. Prior booking is required as it isn't known whether the event venue is open or the session is online via zoom. Wives welcome. For further details and booking, contact Deacon Adrian Cullen on 07961 594725 or [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk).

**'LET US DREAM' Lenten Retreat** - Young Caritas Westminster have organised a retreat for young people aged 18-35 to break open the themes discussed in Pope Francis' 'Let Us Dream' this Lent. Retreatants will attend three online sessions and receive a pack including a copy of the book and a notebook for their reflections.. There is also an opportunity for 1:1 accompaniment. Sessions take place between 18.30 and 19.45 on 9th and 23rd March. Please book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/young-caritas-let-usdream-lenten-retreat-tickets-138923194013>

**COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE CONNECT BISHOP'S STORTFORD**- is a voluntary organisation run by a trained team of Christian money mentors. We offer non-judgemental advice and are supported by local churches. We are a member of Community Money Advice, a national debt advice charity. We are an associate member of Churches Together Bishop's Stortford. We work in association with Community Money Advice. To make an appointment or for more information about how we can help, please contact us on: 01279 652523 [bsmoneyadvice@ntlworld.com](mailto:bsmoneyadvice@ntlworld.com)  
[www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk](http://www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk)

**SELF HARM AWARENESS DAY** - 1st March 2021 - the links below have advice and support for Parents, Carers and Young People along with a helpline. Providing young people with tools to look after their mental health, empowering adults to be the best support they can be to the young people in their lives and giving young people the space and confidence to have their voices heard.

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  
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*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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