

## Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

For many people, this coming week is just an ordinary week with a couple of bank holidays attached to it. But for us Christians, it is the most important week of the year, the week that changed the world forever.

We believe that, at the beginning of the last week of his life on Earth, Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly with palms and cheering, only to be rejected with booing and hissing a few days later. We believe that Jesus gathered his apostles for a Last Supper on Maundy Thursday during which he washed their feet in love and humility, and gave them bread and wine saying, "Do this in memory of me". We believe that he was captured the day after – Good Friday – and crucified, died and was buried. And we believe that on that glorious Easter Sunday, he rose again from the dead, bringing about our salvation.

These are the events that we will be remembering this week. These are the events that shaped us, that defined us. This is our faith, one that we should be proud and ecstatic to profess to the whole world this week.

Our Holy Week liturgical celebrations this year may be different from normal because of the pandemic but their meaning will remain the same. Our salvation.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*

## Parish Note Friday 26th March 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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

Fri 3/26/2021 4:37 PM

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

 2 attachments (255 KB)

Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.docx; Holy Week 2021.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on this Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord which can also be found on the news section of our website.

This week I was very excited to receive my first Covid vaccination. I don't think that I have ever really looked forward to having an injection so much before but am feeling very blessed and eternally grateful for the skill and dedication of those who created and facilitated the vaccine programme. What a wonderful 'gift' to give to the nation to help save precious lives. The service from everyone at the 'Football Club vaccination Centre' was absolutely fabulous, from the chaps who waved me on past the queues for the dump, to the car park attendants, the lady who asked my name and squirted me with hand gel and the lovely nurse who gave me the jab itself. It was a very slick operation, and I was in and out very swiftly. My only minor gripe was that I didn't get a sticker and my husband did!

The event somehow reminded me of being a young child at primary school and dutifully lined up in class to visit the 'Nit nurse', standing with my plimsolled classmates, in front of the teacher's desk by the chalky blackboard, all having our hair ruffled about and not really knowing why. On the same day we always seemed to have an eyesight test which consisted of sitting on a stool in the draughty corridor and having one eye covered with a big wooden spoon by 'Mrs Bailey', who was our Playground assistant, whilst attempting to read the letters printed on a chart. It wasn't exactly Spec saver standard, but, that's how it was.

Mrs Bailey however was an angel who we loved. She always smelt nice, usually of cake, but with a tiny added hint of surgical spirit. Each term she would run the cookery session where two children would make fairy cakes to take home. It was a really special event as we were situated next door to the Headmasters office and were allowed out of the classroom to a small staff room containing a kitchen table and an open coal fire. Alongside the fire lay the school dog, 'Bessie', a beautiful Cocker Spaniel with the waggiest tail, waiting for crumbs to drop whilst sniffing around our legs. It was a real treat. We were also allowed to lick the mixing bowl spoon, which on reflection was probably the same spoon used for the eyesight test.

Armed with a first aid kit consisting only of a wad of damp blue paper towels, a kind word and a big hug, she would deal with all sorts of incidents and ailments from cut knees to bumped heads, diplomatically resolving playground shenanigans and assisting one boy who for some unknown reason had stuck a huge orange crayon up his nose. I recall that she had his head wedged between her ample knees for the extraction itself as he tried to squirm out of her grasp. It was one of those character-building moments that you never really forgot but we all just took in our stride.....

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** - the family and friends of Mary Reardon RIP and Mina Searing RIP who very sadly died this week. Mary was the beloved Mother of Maureen Evans and was just short of celebrating her 105th birthday. Mina, was a retired Bishop's Stortford Nurse whose family ran the Motorcycle shop in North Street some years ago.

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



**CANON EDDIE MATHEWS RIP** - On Thursday 1st April 2021 , it will be one year since the passing of Canon Eddie RIP. The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday will be for the intention of Canon Eddie. Please remember Canon Eddie in your prayers.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLY WEEK** - The arrangements for Holy week are posted on our web site <https://rcstortford.org.uk/holy-week-2021/> and a sheet has been attached to this newsletter also detailing the Mass and Liturgies. As we are still under certain restrictions, we have done everything that we can to follow the Diocesan and Government directives. Thus, the numbers permitted in the Church are still limited and booking will be essential. The web site contains lots of information including daily activities throughout Holy Week for children to do with their families at home. <http://https://rcstortford.org.uk/holy-week-for-kids-2021/>

**STEWARDS** - We have continued to keep St Joseph's safely open for the celebration of Mass throughout the lock down and we have relied heavily on volunteers to enable us to keep the Church COVID-19 secure and sanitised. If you would like to help to Steward/ Clean the Church before and after Mass please do offer your services as many hands make light work!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - Confessions will be available from Monday of Holy Week until Holy Saturday inclusive between 11am - 12 noon. Time slots have been allocated, so please do contact the office for an appointment.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - Fr Peter led the Stations of the Cross at 3pm today via the live stream which has been recorded and is available to view on the Church TV website.

**NEW PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** - The new Planned Giving Envelopes are in the process of being distributed now.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL GIFT AIDERS**- It is a requirement of HMRC that you must pay more income tax than the total of all Gift Aid amounts claimed in a tax year and the penalties for failure to comply with this rule can be severe. The 2020-21 Tax Year will end on 5th April and we will be claiming the Gift Aid for the tax year soon afterwards. If you are registered with the Parish for Gift Aid and your circumstances have changed so that you are no longer eligible, you MUST inform us before 5th April so that we can amend our records to ensure that our claims are correct. If you need to notify us of a change in your status, please contact the Parish Office by phone on 01279 654063 or e-mail at [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk) .Many thanks

**ZOOM** - BIG Thanks to John and our 9am Sunday Mass Musicians who have continued to join together each week for the past year (!) 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: Mar 28, 2021 08:30 AM London

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

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-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwilcgqd0tE\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZ0od-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwilcgqd0tE_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

**CHURCHES TOGETHER EASTER EGG TRAIL** - Churches Together Bishops Stortford has organised an Easter Trail around the Town Centre that is intended as fun for young families. There will be a QR code located in 6 different shop windows which people have to find and scan. Each one will take you to a short video and a quiz. Once all 6 questions have been answered correctly the person can claim a free Easter Egg from our stall in Market Square.

The stall will be open for 4 days between 10am and 4pm between Thursday and Easter Sunday and we need volunteers to give away the eggs.

Please let Clive Weir know if you can help for an hour or more on these 4 days and give him your contact number. Clive will provide all the necessary props – table, chairs, anti-bac gel, paper towels, PPE etc and of course – Easter Eggs. Contact Clive [cj.weir@ntlworld.co](mailto:cj.weir@ntlworld.co) or 07952835781.

**MARRIAGE CARE COUNSELLING SERVICES** -Marriage Care offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of lockdown. Find out more at <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-andfamily-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

**SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS**- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were living in the UK by 31st December 2020 have until 30th June 2021 to apply for the Settlement Scheme. Those who do not apply are at risk of losing their rights to live and work here or access important services such as healthcare. There is a need to continue drawing this to people's attention as we approach the deadline. Older and vulnerable people may require assistance with the online application or not even know that their status is at risk. In many cases their main point of contact with society will be through the Church. Relevant information can be found on the official government website ([www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)), from the European Commission ([www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know](http://www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know)) or from the charity Settled ([www.settled.org.uk](http://www.settled.org.uk)). Please note, Irish citizens do not need to apply.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES** -Thank you very much for your continued patience whilst awaiting to have your Child baptised. If you have not already attended a recent Baptism preparation course, we are pleased to advise you that Sophie Sullivan, our new Catechetical Coordinator and her husband Mike shall be running a two-part Baptism preparation course on the dates below via Zoom. The places will be limited to a maximum of 10 couples on each.

### Course 3

Monday 10th May and Monday 24th May 2021 at 8pm - 9.15pm

If you would like to attend this course, please contact the parish office as soon as possible, so that we can send you an invitation in plenty of time. You are requested to attend the course prior to your Child being baptised.

At the current time, **depending on the success of the Government COVID-19 road map steps**, we hope to be able to start to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism again at St Joseph and the English Martyrs, sometime after 29 May **if all is well**, with 30 persons being permitted to attend.



As you will appreciate, we have a large number of Children still to be baptised since the first lockdown in 2020 and will do our best to prioritise those who had their Baptism date cancelled at that time to start with when able to do so.

If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office so that we have your details on file.

**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 final session will run this Wednesday at 7:30pm. A HUGE thank you again to John and David, along with several members of the Dad's group who have organised and facilitated the sessions. Please feel free to invite your friends/family from both inside and outside the parish.

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 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.

**ECUMENICAL LENT REFLECTION** -Michael McAdam has kindly prepared an ecumenical series of Lent reflections which will be presented through zoom and to which everyone is invited. These will be short meetings on Zoom at 9 am. every day except Sunday, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Lent.

Each meeting will be very short – just a reading, a brief message, some prayers and a little thought to take with you during the day. The whole thing will not last more than ten minutes.

Topic: Lent Reflections with Michael McAdam

Time: 9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73006220841?pwd=SzFkYVU2TjNpSjY1WlZWdjc4b0FmQT09>

Meeting ID: 730 0622 0841

Passcode: DAS5s6

**CAFOD** - Workshop online event Saturday 10 April from 11am to 12.30. 2021 is a critical year as world leaders decide how the world rebuilds from the pandemic. As Catholics we have an important role to play in calling for the world's poorest communities to be included. Join us to find out how to meet your MP as a parish group. Sat 10 April, 11am to 12.30; book at [www.cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting](http://www.cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting)

**CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL** -This Lent, please support the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal and help provide food for children and families in our communities who are facing hunger. You could also support work to help our

brothers and sisters come through the global pandemic stronger and better able to cope. [www.cardinals Lenten appeal.org.uk](http://www.cardinals Lenten appeal.org.uk)

**THE PASSAGE - ENDING HOMELESSNESS**-The Passage's mission and work is developing to cope with more people becoming homeless it is raising funds through the Big Give until Wed 31st March to support No Night Out a new initiative to take newly homeless people off the street straight away. Further details of the work is at [www.passage.org.uk](http://www.passage.org.uk).

Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)

Donate at <https://tinyurl.com/NoNightOut>

**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).

**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 [bsmoneyadviceservice@ntlworld.com](mailto:bsmoneyadviceservice@ntlworld.com)  
[www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk](http://www.bs-money-advice-service.org.uk)

**STORT VALLEY SCHOOL TRUST** - are seeking a chaplain, working in the Bishop's Stortford area, whose primary role will be to offer a pastoral and listening service in school. This will involve building relationships with young people who may be facing all kinds of challenges and will create opportunities to influence young lives for good. It will also lead to opportunities to share the Christian faith in lunch clubs, in collective worship, in prayer spaces, and in conversations with school staff.

The position is for 7.5 hours per week in term time only.

CLOSING DATE: Monday 5th April 2021

If this sounds like you, please get in touch. You can find out more, download the full job description and application form or apply online by clicking the button below.

<https://www.svst.org.uk/job-vacancies>

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESE VACANCY** - Head of Communications. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is looking to recruit a Head of Communications, initially on a 2 year fixed term contract, to develop and implement a communications strategy for our current times. Based in Central London the job holder will be responsible for an audit of all our current communications tools and approaches, as well as ensuring all ongoing communications operations meet the highest standards possible. The ideal candidate will have thorough knowledge of the Catholic church as well as 10 years plus experience in a senior communications role in a not for profit organisation. He/she will have exemplary written and verbal communication skills and proven experience in both proactive and reactive (crisis) communications through all media. This is a full time



role with a starting salary range of £55,000 - £60,000 per annum depending upon skills and experience. We may consider part time for the right candidate. For more information and to apply please contact sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk by the closing date of 6th April 2021.

**CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL** - Every September Westminster Cathedral Choir School welcomes up to six choristers into Year 4. Becoming a chorister at Westminster Cathedral offers boys the opportunity to sing in central London and on tour internationally. Boys also receive an outstanding education with bursaries up to 100% of fees. Contact Lucy Auger to arrange a visit on 020 7798 9081 or email: lauger@choirschool.com [www.choirschool.com](http://www.choirschool.com)

**VACANCY AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL**- Headteacher's Secretary 9 am – 2 pm (term time only) H2 £18,562 - £19,312 + £626 Fringe Pro Rata – £10,775 - £11,196 An exciting opportunity has arisen for a positive, proactive person with a good sense of humour and a happy disposition, to join a busy office in a high performing school. The successful applicant will work alongside the Head's PA; joining a team that has a 'can do' attitude, an ability to enjoy being busy, a calm demeanour whilst working under pressure, and generally in good spirits. Visit [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ( SVP)** - Have you ever wondered what the SVP do ? Are you in need of some help ? or Could you help the SVP to help others? Visit their website to learn more about this amazing charity <https://www.svp.org.uk/what-we-do>

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK** -29th March - 4th April <https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week I would like to thank one of our lovely Parishioners who very quietly and thoughtfully regularly visits the small Redemptorist cemetery in the Monastery Gardens to say a prayer for our Priests there. Thank you for everything that you do x

And finally a little reminder that on Sunday, March 28, we will move to British Summer Time at 1am.. with the clocks going forward one hour. Don't be late for Mass!

I hope that you all have a very happy, healthy and blessed Holy 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)