



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

**FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE  
IN THIS LAST YEAR**

## Parish Note Thursday 1st April 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter

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

Thu 4/1/2021 5:06 PM

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

 1 attachments (271 KB)

Thank you from Fr Peter.docx;

Good afternoon

This is a slightly shortened 'Maundy Thursday' note this week ..

Please find attached a beautiful Sunday Message from Fr Peter which simply says a very BIG Thank you..

**'Thank you! to everyone, for all that you have done in this last year'.**

**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 this evening on Maundy Thursday will be for the intention of Canon Eddie. Please especially remember him in your prayers. Maria Sze very kindly shared some lovely words that she received from Canon Eddie last year in a Christmas card whilst he was suffering ill health. He was always very upbeat and cheerful finishing with, '*Praise be for the NHS. Hospital is no heaven, but there are lots of angels there*'.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Michael and Grace Duhig who celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary tomorrow. We send our love and prayers to you both.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - Thank you to our Young People and Confirmation Candidates for beautifully presenting the Stations of the Cross, to Sophie who filmed it and for Fr Antonio for his expert editing skills. The video will be shown on our website from 9am on Good Friday and will also be available on our Youtube channel and Twitter feed.

**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 ( Zoom Master Extraordinaire) 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: April 4 2021 08:30 AM London

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

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/join?mt=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwilcgqdOte\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?mt=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwilcgqdOte_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

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to John, David and the whole of the Dad's Group who ran the Sycamore Lent course. It was very much appreciated by everyone with special praise from Fr Peter and Fr Antonio, along with a wonderful message of thanks from Fr Stephen Wang who added, *'You have been a pioneering parish and a great model and example for others!'*. We all look forward to the next one...

**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 the next two-part Baptism preparation course on the date 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.

**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.cardinalslentenappeal.org.uk](http://www.cardinalslentenappeal.org.uk)

**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).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

**CATHOLIC ETHOS ADVOCATE** - Circa £40k per annum (dependent upon skills, qualifications and experience, pro-rata where applicable). The Trustees of St Elizabeth's, Much Hadham Hertfordshire SG10 6EW are creating a new post to further, celebrate and promote the distinctive Catholic identity and ethos of the Centre. St Elizabeth's is a long established charity, (which has a school for 5-19 year olds; a College for 18-25 year olds and a Registered Children's Home and Care Home with Nursing for Adults), providing education, care and medical support on a 52-week basis of up to 200 people of all ages with learning disabilities and other complex medical needs, often caused or complicated by severe epilepsy and/or autism. 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) . Informal discussions are encouraged prior to interview, for further information please call the Recruitment Team on 01279 844348 or 01279 843451 or email us at [recruitment@stelizabeths.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@stelizabeths.org.uk). The closing date for applications will be Friday 7 May 2021

**YOUNG ADULTS EASTER RETREAT** – Wellspring Community 1-4 April: <http://www.wellspringbrighton.org.uk/the-virtual-easter-retreat/>. This retreat has already started on Maundy Thursday but click on "book now" to access the talks.

**RISE UP TASTER SESSIONS** – Rise up is a brand-new youth project created to train, equip, and inspire young people in their leadership skills and faith formation. The main project begins in September 2021, but the Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry Team and Catholic Voices are offering a number of online taster sessions to help you decide if you would like to get more involved. The next one is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm online. Details can be found here: <https://dowym.com/events/> Or visit the Rise Up website: <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/rise-up>

**RESONATE** - Resonate is Westminster Youth Ministry's primary event for young adult Catholics aged 18-35, looking to explore and learn more about their faith. Currently taking place online, the next meeting is on Thursday 13 May at 7pm. All Details can be found here: <https://dowym.com/events/resonate-2/>

**BIBLE TIMELINE ONLINE COURSE** – starting on Wednesday 7 April at 7pm . This enlightening course will help you understand the bible as never before. Mauro Iannicelli is an experienced speaker and your guide through this 8-week course, explaining how the many characters and events of the bible are related. Why not commit to it as a great follow up to Sycamore? This is a free course, but booking is required. You can do so at: <https://comeandsee.org/>

**BREAKING DAY** - a play recently advertised in the Church Times presented by Riding lights Theatre company. The play is available from <https://www.ridinglights.org/breaking-day> for watching up to 15th April, at a cost of £10 per household.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/26-march/books-arts/performing-arts/theatre-riding-lights-breaking-day>

**CHURCHES TOGETHER BISHOP'S STORTFORD SONG** - performed 'Risen' - a beautiful song for Easter. Please click on the link below.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TcQvG9SXEGb3ck5qFkikaw88D\\_WW3ENA/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TcQvG9SXEGb3ck5qFkikaw88D_WW3ENA/view)

**PARISH OFFICE** - The Parish Office will be closed from Good Friday 2nd April until Tuesday 6th April 2021 and all non-urgent emails and telephone messages will be answered immediately upon Debbie's return. Please leave a message on the answerphone ( 01279 654063) which will be monitored for any urgent enquiries by Fr Peter and Fr Antonio

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week Fr Peter has already said a BIG thank you to everyone in the parish. It's been a really difficult year again so far, but the end is now hopefully in sight! Special thanks must go to Fr Peter and Fr Antonio themselves ( Fr Carlos too) for keeping our parish going. Despite all of the restrictions and additional challenges, they have continued to safely celebrate Mass ( for a short time with no physical congregation present apart from building debris and dust!) listened to confessions, married couples ( sometimes right up to the deadline, fast tracking paperwork!) supported many grieving families, baptised babies when possible and celebrated Confirmations and First Holy Communions, whilst launching a new website and juggling all of their other numerous responsibilities in the Diocese, as well as helping to clean and sanitise the Church too. It is sometimes easy to forget that they have also been separated from their own family and friends, they have not taken any proper time off and have worked continuously throughout since last March 2020. So, Thank **YOU** both Fathers very much indeed for everything that you have done and continue to do! We are very blessed to have you both in our parish.

*After a turbulent 12 months of the pandemic, which has brought such chaos to our lives; isolation, loneliness, job losses, furlough, illness and bereavement, may the wonder of Christ's resurrection bathe us all in glorious Easter light, so that we can bring the light of Christ into the world..*

I hope that you all have a very happy, healthy, Holy and Blessed Easter

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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