

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Third Sunday of Easter

At the beginning of Lent I spent quite some time considering what 'love' really meant in my life. One of the first things I discovered in reading about it was that the opposite of love is not hatred, it is fear. That thought stayed with me right through Lent. And now, this Sunday, it comes to fruition in the extract we hear proclaimed from St Luke's Gospel: "Peace be with you", Jesus says.

But peace is not something that we can just turn on and off. When we are disturbed and fearful we need to try to figure out what it is in ourselves that has made us fearful. Jesus goes on to question us in the Gospel: "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts arising in your hearts?" It is a very good, and tough, question.

Sometimes our fear lies in history and our own history is sometimes buried deep down. It can be a frightening thing to bring it to the surface and face it. Other times it can be very near the surface and can show itself in our short temperedness or lack of patience with ourselves and others. This is because fear is something that gnaws away at us and the only thing that heals it is light. By that I mean bringing things into the light as opposed to leaving them covered up in the darkness. That's why I said it can be a tough question.

The image of light is a very common one in the Easter readings and prayers of the liturgy. We have the Easter candle and it is the time of year that the hours of daylight draw out, spring is in the air with colour as well as light. It could be that with the help of nature that we might step outside into the light and breathe in deeply, allowing God to bring the Spring of Easter into our lives. You see, there is nothing to be afraid of if we are honest with God, He knows it all already, but perhaps it helps to tell Him in our own words, to write our own story in His sacred heart.

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 16 April 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Third Sunday of Easter

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

Fri 4/16/2021 3:14 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Third Sunday of Easter.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached a thought-provoking Sunday message from Fr Peter on the Third Sunday of Easter. This can also be found on our website accompanied by a beautiful photograph taken by Fr Peter of the evening sunlight radiating onto the back of St Joseph's Church.

Well, it's been a week of many haircuts from what I can see in the parish.. and with the sudden chilly weather.. I'm sure that there are definitely a few cold heads about! I have yet to book my own hair appointment, continuing to nibble my wonky locks with the kitchen scissors every now and then, but it is on the list of things to do. Some years ago, my daughter who had very long waist length hair, decided that she wanted to have it cut a lot shorter and actually donate her hair, having researched a charity called the 'Little Princess Trust', based in Hereford.

The charity provides free, real hair wigs for children and young people up to the age of 24 years old who have lost their hair through cancer treatment and other conditions. It was originally set up in memory of five-year-old Hannah Tarplee who sadly died as a result of cancer in June 2005. Hannah loved her hair so when she underwent treatment for a Wilms' tumour, the loss of her hair was especially traumatic. When Hannah died, her parents felt the most fitting tribute would be to set up the 'Little Princess Trust' which has since helped thousands of young people regain their confidence and identity by giving them a real hair wig. Thanks to fundraising from its family of supporters, the Little Princess Trust has also committed more than £7 million to projects focused on kinder and more effective treatments for childhood cancers.

So, if during lockdown your hair has really grown, and you are thinking about having a 'big chop' perhaps consider helping out this particular charity and don't let your lockdown length go to waste! The minimum length of hair that they can accept is 7 inches, but they encourage supporters to donate hair that measures 12 inches and above. There is a lot of information on their website should you wish to know more <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/our-story>.

HRH PRINCE PHILIP RIP - There will be a 1-minute silence held nationwide on Saturday 17 April 2021 at 3pm, in memory of HRH Prince Philip RIP.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS- the family and friends of those who have sadly died recently, especially, Baroness Shirley Williams RIP and Marian Francis RIP (beloved Sister of Mary Crake from our St Joseph's Choir)

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

CONGRATULATIONS - We extend our love and prayers to Jennifer and Devin who will finally marry this weekend at St Joseph's, having had their previous marriage date postponed due to lockdown.

RETURN OF THE 11AM MASS AT ST JOSEPH'S - As from this Sunday 18th April 2021, we will be starting to celebrate Mass at 11am at St Joseph's once again, but in order to continue to do this safely **we will need more volunteers to act as Stewards/ Cleaners to help at this Mass please.** If you are able to assist, please may you kindly contact the Parish Office. We really do need your help please! Thank you.

POLITE REMINDER RE BOOKING OF MASS - If you know that you are unable to attend Mass, once you have booked a place, **please** call 01279 654063 and leave a message. This is so that we may offer your seat to another, particularly at the weekends when we often have a waiting list. Thank you.

ZOOM -Thank you to John and our 9am Sunday Mass Musicians who will be continuing to celebrate the livestreaming of the Mass via Zoom each Sunday until further notice, 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 18, 2021 08:30 AM London

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

Apr 18, 2021 08:30 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89508074176?pwd=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89508074176?pwd=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09>

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 417

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), from the European Commission (www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know) or from the charity Settled (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.

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.

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. 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. The closing date for applications will be Friday 7 May 2021

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 20th 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/>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PAGE -For families and especially children – Have you checked out the Children's Liturgy page on our parish website yet? It is updated weekly with videos you can watch, aimed at opening up the Sunday readings that we hear at Mass – especially for our younger parishioners. You can also download from that page the "Look" and "Ichthus" Mass sheets which are there to help children understand the themes of each Sunday's Mass. We encourage you to take a look, as we believe this page will really enhance your children's understanding of Mass, which can be a challenge at this time: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/childrens-liturgy/>. Both video resources also include songs to enjoy!

PRIEST TRAINING FUND - Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. This fund

pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 42 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 18 of whom are for our own Diocese, and two men are studying in Rome, also for our Diocese. Last year two men who studied at Allen Hall and one who studied in Rome ordained to the priesthood to serve as our future priests. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

MASS FOR MIGRANTS - This year's Mass celebrating the contribution of migrant communities in the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark, and Brentwood, will be livestreamed from St William of York Church, Lewisham on 1st May from 11.30am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be celebrating; join using the link tinyurl.com/migrantsmass.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY via live stream from Westminster Cathedral, on Saturday 15th May 2021 at 3pm

The Cardinal will be celebrating a live-streamed Mass for all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2021. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email), and these details will be sent to those organising this celebration. An Order of Service can be downloaded from the Cathedral website before the event – www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week Jack and Patricia Nash will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary. We send our love, prayers and many congratulations to you both!

To finish, on Saturday we will celebrate a Mass intention at St Joseph's, for Fr Alec Fraser RIP, a very good friend of Canon Eddie Matthews RIP and it seemed a poignant moment to share a poem that he wrote, courtesy of Alison Jones.

The Flickering Leaf by Fr Alec Fraser

*"Just Me Lord, let me be me, just me
Not the face of a stranger
Or the voice of another
With a song that's not mine own
Made but to impress or please.*

*Lord, let me be me, just me
O Lord, unshackle me, set me free.
Help me find the rock on which I stand
The stone inscribed not by me
But by the God who created me.
There lies my allotted place, the bit
That fits the gap in this unfinished plot,
My own peculiar space.*

*There may I speak the words that are given to me
There may I do what I am called to do
There may I become what I am meant to be
There my own intrepid voice will sing out
In praise of the God who re-created me.
There we all will be lost in Thee.
But that lies way ahead, out of sight, just a glint,
A glimpse of what could be, will be, not yet,
A chink of light forever beyond the world's grip."*

I hope that you all continue to 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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Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham
Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth*

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Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>

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

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