

### Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Two things strike me about this coming week. For this coming Tuesday the Bishops of England and Wales have specifically asked us all to remember in our prayers those who are Survivors of Abuse. Pope Francis has asked for it to be a worldwide day of prayer within the Catholic Church. It is a very sobering initiative of the Holy Father and it is right and fitting that we should bring Survivors before the Lord in our prayers that they should be touched by the healing grace of God. The other reminder that comes before us this week is that Tuesday is also the feast day of the English Martyrs, to whom, along with St Joseph, our Parish is dedicated. They came from all walks of life and all parts of the country. They were men and women, high born and low born. Some were strong in faith, some found themselves weak; some were bold, some were timorous. Above all, they were people who became conscious in themselves of the existence of right and wrong in the world around them. They learnt of the power of the State peering into their souls and found themselves faced with a wall of silence and secrecy. Even neighbour betrayed neighbour.

We should beware of the danger of secrecy in our own lives and, as the Gospels encourages us, live in the light and move out of the darkness, for all our actions have effects on others. We are all part of the vine that is the Church and whose very sap is Christ Himself.

*Fr Peter*

## Parish Note Thursday 29th April 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Thu 4/29/2021 4:55 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

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

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fifth Sunday of Easter which can also be found on our website.

Well, I apologise for any confusion caused, I know it's a Thursday and the note usually comes out on a Friday, but for this week, because of the Bank holiday weekend, it's a little earlier than usual, as I am also not in the office tomorrow.

I've always been a bit of an early bird and I really do not like being late for anything. One of my dear friends however takes her fear of tardiness to the extreme in having the clocks in her house and car set a whole hour early, which gets very confusing, especially when the clocks go forward or backwards during the year. We affectionately call it 'Jane time' (in order to protect her identity, I have changed her name!) I think it started off one New Year's Eve, when her children wanted to stay up to see in the New year, but really, she wanted an early night as she was working the very next day. So, without telling them, she wound every clock in the house forward three whole hours and being super organised, found a pre-recorded soundtrack of Big Ben chiming, so the New Year's Eve party was actually celebrated at 9pm and everyone was very happy and none the wiser.

Time is something that none of us can stop, but it does control our daily lives to a certain extent. When I retired, I took off my watch and have never worn it since. I suddenly felt an immense feeling of freedom. It was, I admit, a bit odd at first, looking at a bare wrist every few minutes with nothing to provide reassurance as to the exact, precise time of day, just in case I needed to evidentially record something, but I actually learned to know what the time was quite well without it. This was nothing to do with utilising my handy girl guide survival skills assessing the direction of the sun's rays or calculating the time using the shadow of my body as a sundial. No, I could simply just look at the time on my mobile phone, the car dashboard, the kitchen clock, hall clock, microwave, cooker, the radio and the list goes on!

We British tend to be as obsessed with punctuality as we are with the weather. 'The speaking clock' will be 85 years old this year and remains an emblem of accuracy, which might explain why we are still prepared to pay for it at fifty pence per minute today. In 1936 London telephonist Ethel Cain was selected as the first "voice" from a pool of 15,000 telephone operators who worked for the GPO. She was awarded a prize of 10 guineas in a nationwide competition to find a "golden voice". She became an instant hit, especially for her crisp pronunciation of the word "precisely" which is used at the start of each new minute. Today, BT has a new voice of Alan Steadman, a retired Civil servant who won a competition in 2016, being the first Scottish voice chosen for the role..

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS-** the family and friends of Anthony Dillon RIP, beloved Son of Martin and Diana, Halina Podlasinski RIP, beloved Mother of Jolanta and Val and Florrie Parkin RIP, beloved Mother-in-law of Bernadette who all recently died.

*Eternal rest grant unto Anthony, Halina and Florrie O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



**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: May 2, 2021 08:30 AM London

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

May 2, 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=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtilcgqd0tE\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89508074176?pwd=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtilcgqd0tE_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 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](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.

**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: 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).

**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

**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/>

**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 <https://actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass>

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

**THY KINGDOM COME** - Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. May 13th - May 23rd, 2021, <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It includes the Pentecost Novena, traditionally prayed from the Ascension to Pentecost for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Thy Kingdom Come also invites us to journey with Mary and to pray for five people we know who may stopped coming to church or never attended Mass. For more information, visit our Thy Kingdom Come page: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/thy-kingdom-come-2021>.

**HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK** -The Holiday Bible Week committee are continuing to meet online to pray and plan for HBW 2021. The situation remains difficult in the UK and around the world and we are sad to say we cannot hold HBW in person this year for all the safety of all involved. HOWEVER - we are feeling very hopeful as we explore plans for an online virtual HBW with games and teaching and various things to teach and entertain the children of our town! We need your help to do this: do you or anyone you know have the skills to help with producing material to share online - perhaps in filming or sound mixing? Or do you want to be involved with the live week? There are lots of plans and ideas for this online adventure so people would be joining this team effort. You can also be involved at "prayer points" in the town churches during the week.

If you are able to help, please email David King at [davidholidaybibleweek@gmail.com](mailto:davidholidaybibleweek@gmail.com) or Sue Vassell at [h14vas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:h14vas@yahoo.co.uk)

**DEAF AWARENESS WEEK** - 3rd- 9 May <https://www.deafcouncil.org.uk/deaf-awareness-week/>

**COVID PANDEMIC IN INDIA** -Upon seeing the devastation in India following the spread of the pandemic, the St Joseph's SVP and others in East Herts are supporting a number of parishes in different parts of India with some funds to buy essentials and with our prayers. It is only a year or two since they experienced the devastating floods, please remember them in your prayers over the coming weeks as the situation continues.

**STOP DISABILITY ABORTION** -Earlier this year the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Northern Ireland



Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. You can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds! [www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation)

**MARRIAGE WEEK** -This year Marriage week is from 10th - 16th May, and the theme is called 'Naked Marriage'. Before you jump to the wrong conclusion, the theme reflects the fact that during the Covid 19 epidemic, the law insisted that marriages had to be scaled down. Numbers were restricted, big indoor receptions were banned and couples who had not been able to afford a big wedding suddenly found they could actually afford to get married. So the message is that it is not necessary to have all the gloss and all the expense. The essential thing is that couples get married and they mustn't be afraid to scale down expenses, whether it be the cost of the reception or the extravagant honeymoon. Maybe something good could come out of Covid 19 after all! For more details see the Marriage Week website, <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>

**PARISH OFFICE** - The Parish office will be closed on Friday 30th April until Tuesday 4th May 2021. If your enquiry is urgent, please call Fr Peter or Fr Antonio on 01279 654063 and leave a message. All emails will be dealt with upon Debbie's return. Thank you.

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week Tessa Nazareth deserves a huge special mention. Tessa not only is our 'Missio box Champion' but can be relied upon for absolutely everything and anything! Her kindness, abundance of prayers, generosity and thoughtful friendly nature is wonderful, and her strong faith and energy is infectious too. Tessa has been attending Mass daily at St Joseph's throughout the lockdown and always helps with the Stewarding and cleaning, being a 'Platinum member' of our 'Special gym'! Tessa often helpfully tells us how many calories we have burned after each session too. Thank you, Tessa, you are amazing!

**FREE 'SPECIAL GYM' MEMBERSHIP - It's still open daily!** Sessions on a Monday - Friday at 9.30am, Saturday at 6pm and even on Sundays 9am and 11am. All equipment provided and friendly instruction given in beautiful spiritual surroundings. Designed to burn off a few calories at a time within a fun team building environment. There are various exercises to suit, starting with the 'Dettol wipe pew action', door handle spritz, broom sweep floor challenge, mop and bucket marathon and finishing up with a gentle cleansing fog spa. Free membership for life and rewarded with huge grateful thanks, all the while knowing that you are helping to keep the Church clean and safe for others. If you are interested, please contact the parish office or simply join in for a free 15-minute taster session after Mass one day! Also available at Holy Cross at 11.30am. Thank you very much :)

To finish, with Saturday being the feast day of St Joseph the Worker,

*'God, give us work so that we may share our talents with others and know the dignity and satisfaction that you give us through our efforts. Give us patience while you open doors and wisdom to see your will. Keep our families in your care and provide for all our needs. Never let stress diminish our love for each other nor our work as part of your healing ministry. In your name we pray. Amen.'*

I 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*

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Telephone: 01279 654063

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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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