

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

Just how lovable are you?

It is a question that we might ask ourselves every now and again... and it is a question that particularly comes to me reading the letter of St John this Sunday. He says, *'We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves'*. In today's Gospel Jesus says to God our Father, *'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world'*. But we can only be active in the world in Jesus and the Father's name if we are willing to wrestle with the reality of the truth in our lives, that God loves us.

I know I often say that we are all very good at falling in love – it can be very easy, it is intoxicating and we can love being wrapped up in it. It energises us and makes us feel *'alive'*. BUT, allowing ourselves to BE loved can be a very different thing.

What if the other person gets to know what I am really like? What if I find myself being challenged to see what I am really like, that part of me that I might have been trying to escape from for a very long time. Can I cope with the truth, am I willing to trust another person with whom and what I am?

You see, we are only going to be able to be God's messengers in the world if we believe that He truly loves us, every bit of us, and accept that this is so. *'Apart from me, you can do nothing'*, Jesus tells us when he speaks of being the vine and we the branches. It is Jesus' love that we bring into the (our) world through the Holy Spirit by the gift of God the Father, OUR father.

So, let me tell you now, you are LOVABLE, whether you like it or not? God LOVED you into being and it is God's LOVE that sustains your every moment; so, deep breath time, go and stand in front of the mirror and look at yourself and say *'thank you Lord for loving me, help me to accept Your love and love You in return'*.

Fr Peter

## Parish Note Friday 14th May 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Fri 5/14/2021 1:19 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 Seventh Sunday of Easter.docx;

Good afternoon

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

I have always been partial to a biscuit or 'three' to accompany a cup of tea, with chocolate ones being my preferred option, if given the choice. I do enjoy shortbread biscuits too, but had an unfortunate experience many years ago when my late father-in-law kindly gave us a box one Christmas, which when we opened it, smelled strongly of rancid cheese! Once 'interrogated' by my mortified mother-in-law, he innocently confessed that they were a 'recycled gift' he had found on the top of a cupboard. The box was indeed very pretty, but the contents were 5 years out of date.. it was however the thought that counted.

I also confess to being a 'secret and serial dunker', but not in company, so as not to break any etiquette code. There is something rather satisfying about melting the chocolate coating on the top of a biscuit in hot tea, but there is definitely a technique and a timeliness to 'dunking' so as to avoid breakage and the unpleasant task of retrieving debris from the bottom of your cup. A study has shown that a Chocolate Bourbon can be dunked for 2 minutes and 39 seconds, with a chocolate hobnob for a mere 51 seconds, both of which are a little advanced for me. I'm a quick 'dunk and go' kind of gal!

Sailors on long voyages back in the 1500's were provided with an allowance of a simple biscuit/ cracker called a 'hard tack' which were almost indestructible. In later years, it is said that they could even be written on and used as postcards. The earliest surviving ships biscuit is thought to be from 1784. To moisten them, they would dunk them in brine or coffee which softened them up. It's believed that the word biscuit comes from the Latin "bis cotum" which means twice baked.

Interestingly, I learned that the Catholic Church in Scotland has launched a fresh bid to have a young Edwardian woman who once worked in the McVities biscuit factory declared a saint. Margaret Sinclair (1900-25) grew up in a poor Edinburgh tenement, worked as a French polisher, and was an active trade unionist. She became unemployed during the slump after the First World War, and she and her sister supplemented the family diet by running an allotment. She later found work in a McVitie's biscuit factory and eventually entered a Poor Clare convent as 'Sister Mary Francis of the Five Wounds' bringing relief to the poor before she died of tuberculosis in 1925. Sister Mary Francis was declared "Venerable" by the Catholic Church in 1978.

During a visit to Scotland in 1982, Pope John Paul II described her as "one of God's little ones, who through her very simplicity, was touched by God with the strength of real holiness of life, whether as a child, a young woman, an apprentice, a factory worker, a member of a trade union or a professed sister of religion"...

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS-** the family and friends of Patricia Hardcastle RIP beloved wife of Barry , Patricia Hughes RIP, beloved sister-in-law of Monica Lynch and Danny Manalang RIP beloved Uncle to Fr Antonio, who all died recently.

*Eternal rest grant unto them 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 16, 2021, 08:30 AM London

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

May 16, 2021, 08:30 AM

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

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwtilcgqd0tE\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=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

**PENTECOST NOVENA** - Visit our website for a wonderful Pentecost Novena for nine days of prayer with a special audio playlist <https://rcstortford.org.uk/thy-kingdom-come-2021/pentecost-novena-2021/>

**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>.

### **THY KINGDM COME AT HOLY CROSS**

Thy Kingdom Come is an ecumenical time to refresh our faith and to pray for others to come to know what it is to be a Christian. It lasts for ten days from Ascension Day (this Thursday) and Pentecost. In past years we have met in church to pray for five people whom we care about, but this year we are going to use our 9 a.m. slot for daily prayer, on Zoom. Each day will be led by members of Holy Cross and St Andrew's in any way they wish. They will create a very short devotion and we are asked to bring in our hearts, five friends for whom we will offer silent prayer. Some people have a pebble for each person, with an initial drawn or painted on it, just as an aide memoire. Thy Kingdom Come is happening all over the world because people have a real desire to fill it with love.

Will you join in? These are the people who are going to lead:

Saturday 15th Hope and Michael Gilbert- Holy Cross

Sunday – We attend our normal church services

Monday 17th May- Steve Bate- St Andrew's

Tuesday 18th May- Martin Dillon- Holy Cross

Wednesday 19th May- Sheila Rowntree- St Andrew's

Thursday 20th May- Liz Sweetman - Holy Cross

Friday 21st May- Michael McAdam- St Andrew's

Saturday 22nd May- Peter Sweetman - Holy Cross

Pentecost 23rd May – We attend our normal church services

It would be lovely to have you take part from 9 a.m. Thursday 13th May – Saturday 22nd May (excluding Sundays)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/892975241?pwd=VmlyMTA1eVdZOGpHVDJhYVpnaWNBdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 975 241

Passcode: 023719

**BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSES** - We are pleased to advise you that Sophie Sullivan, our Catechetical Coordinator and her husband Mike shall be running the next 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 4**

Monday 14th June and Monday 21st June 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.

As you will appreciate, we have a large number of Children still to be baptised since the first lockdown in 2020 and have prioritised those who had their Baptism date cancelled at that time to start with. If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office so that we have your details on file.

**MAKE MAY A ' MARATHON' OF PRAYER** - Visit our web site for more

info <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/05/01/make-month-of-may-a-marathon-of-prayer-pope-francis/>

**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).

**JOB VACANCY** - The Christian School, Takeley, are currently have a vacancy for a part-time primary teacher to join the teaching staff from September 2021. This is a small, faith-based and close-knit school community. You may be interested or know someone who would be interested. The link below includes all the information about this post: <https://www.tcst.org.uk/vacancies/>

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - If you haven't already discovered our wonderful online resources for children and families, do have a look at our portal: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/children-and-families-portal/> Given that we are not all able to attend Sunday Mass together - and there are many parents that may be struggling engaging their children on Sundays in these unusual times - do also look up our dedicated Children's Liturgy page, where we provide weekly-updated videos for the family to enjoy, which break open the Sunday readings and are presented specifically with children in mind! You will also find weekly Ichthus and Look activity sheets there too: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/childrens-liturgy/>

**VACCINE CONFIDENCE WEBINAR** - 15 May 10-11.30am. Organised by the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, together with local authorities. Chair: Bishop Paul McAleenan. Panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. Opportunity to ask questions anonymously. Join <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

**ALLSORTS DEMENTIA GROUP** - will be returning to Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club every Thursday, with activities adapted to suit a Covid 19 risk management plan. There are very limited places available. Please contact 01279 498938 or email [allsortsdg@gmail.com](mailto:allsortsdg@gmail.com)

**CARDS FOR BRAVERY** - is a non-profit organisation that distributes positive handmade cards to hospitalised and seriously ill children founded by local 19-year-old Katie Callaghan during a four-month hospital stay. Recently cards for Bravery have taken on more hospitals to distribute to and desperately need more cards. No real artistic ability is needed, it is a great activity and will help make a big difference. For more info on card making guidelines and where to send cards please visit [www.cardsforbravery.com](http://www.cardsforbravery.com)

**MARY'S MEALS** - [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) Delivering hope to 1.8 million chronically hungry children by providing one meal every school day and encouraging education that can lift them out of poverty in later life. A donation of £15.90 will feed a hungry child every school day for a year.

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week a special mention and 'BIG' thanks to Eugene Keddy who after many years of service is stepping down from his voluntary safeguarding role at Most Holy Redeemer. Thank you very much for everything you have done (and still continue to do) Eugene.

**CONGRATULATIONS** - to Richard and Patricia Maureso who celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary this weekend and also to the couples in our parish celebrating anniversaries who will be joining the Cardinal's Matrimonial live stream Mass at the Cathedral this Saturday at 3pm.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK** - 13th - 20th May <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>

**FREE 'SPECIAL GYM' MEMBERSHIP** - It's still open daily and now with new equipment! 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 stay behind and 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 :)

If you are unable to 'join in' with the cleaning of our Churches, we would gratefully accept any donations of anti-bacterial/ anti-viral cleaning wipes or spray, as we do get through quite a lot! Thank you very much to those kind parishioners who have helped to clean and also provided supplies. It is much appreciated.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** - the young people of our parish who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation next week, having waited so patiently since last year. We send our love and best wishes to you.

To finish this week a prayer from St Ignatius of Loyola

*Teach us, good Lord,  
To serve thee as thou deservest;  
To give and not to count the cost.  
To fight and not to heed the wounds.  
To toil and not to seek for rest.  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.*

(St Ignatius Loyola)

I hope that you 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

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)*

THIS EMAIL AND ANY ATTACHED FILES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY BE LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the addressee, any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution or other dissemination or use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete this email. Email transmission, including any attachments, cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error free, as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The recipient must check emails, including attachment, for viruses and the Diocese cannot accept responsibility if the recipient fails to do so. The sender, therefore, does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message which arise as a result of email transmission. If verification is required please request a hard copy version.

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?