

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Pentecost Sunday

Allow me tell you another embarrassing secret from my childhood. I loved superheroes: I used to pretend to be Superman and I was convinced that when I turned 18, I would get superpowers like him. I would be able to fly, have super strength and save people. But of course, when I turned 18, I remained an ordinary human with no superpowers; at least, not the superpowers I had dreamed of.

The truth is, when I turned 18, I transformed from a child into an adult. Just like that. And it was pretty powerful. It was as though while I was sleeping the night before a fairy waved her magic wand to change me forever. Suddenly, I could do things I could not do before such as vote in an election (or stand for election, even), get married without my parents' permission, serve on a jury, etc. These were indeed powerful abilities. With them, I could make a difference.

This Sunday, we celebrate Pentecost. It is regarded as the birthday of the Church because it was the start of the Church's mission to the world. Christ had promised His Apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit, and, on Pentecost, they were granted the gifts of the Spirit. The Apostles began to preach the Gospel in all the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke, and about 3,000 people were converted and baptised that day.

Before the Pentecost, the apostles felt weak, powerless, and scared. But with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they had the power to change the world. Just like turning 18.

God gives the same Spirit that filled Peter and the apostles to everyone who asks. That includes you, your family, your friends, even your enemies. God does not restrict his blessings to a chosen few. He wants to give them everyone!

So let us all celebrate our birthday this Sunday. Whether you're gathered with fellow parishioners in the church or joining others online, imagine what it would be like if the Spirit fell on all of you during the liturgy. What would it look like for all of those present — including you — to experience the Holy Spirit in the same way the disciples did? Or to be so filled with joy that all burst out in praise of the Lord? Or to experience God's love in a deep, intimate way? In fact, don't just imagine it. Pray for it. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours for the asking, and with them you could change the world. Just like the Apostles did.

Fr Antonio Pineda

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am very pleased to share with you this Pastoral Letter, prepared by the Bishops of England and Wales for use in churches on 23 May 2021, Pentecost Sunday:

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’.

May God bless you all,

+ Vincent Nichols


✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols
Archbishop of Westminster

Parish Note Friday 21 May 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Pentecost Sunday

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

Fri 5/21/2021 3:28 PM

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

 2 attachments (152 KB)

210523 Pastoral Letter - Pentecost.pdf; The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Pentecost Sunday.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached a wonderful Sunday Message 'confession' from Fr Antonio on Pentecost Sunday which can also be found on our website. Also attached is a Pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Hearing the news that Debenhams stores were sadly closing their doors last week must have played on my sub conscious mind, as I awoke in the early hours mentally 'walking' up and down the High street, trying to remember the names of past shops staffed by familiar faces who played a big part in my childhood. Jackson square has seen so many changes over the years from being the concrete open-air base for many a trader to what it is today. I have fond memories of running at full pelt, racing my sister down the 'whirly gig', a spiral ramp which led you down out of Jackson square directly onto Bridge Street, where the escalators are now. Every week my mother would say the infamous words 'Make sure you stop at the bottom!'

Then there was 'Mac market' where Wilko's is, outside of which, when I was around 8 years old, I found a pearl necklace. Feeling very excited, I was escorted to the Police station with this precious treasure, which I dutifully handed over to the hairy desk sergeant and a few weeks later received a lovely, handwritten, kind, thank you letter from the elderly lady who had lost it. The Regent Cinema closed in 1986 and is now the site of M&S (where I had a Saturday job as a teenager). It was a real treat to go and see a film there, feeling the bees' knees as I watched 'Grease', wearing my new denim jeans with a trendy piped cord stripe down the outer seams and adorned with my priceless John Travolta 'real gold' pendant purchased for the sum of 50p from the market. 'Barretts' on North Street was the place to buy school uniform and 'Boardman's' the site for the purchase of my first ink pen and also the home of the 'White Hart' statue standing proudly above the shop entrance. The weekly Sworders cattle market at Northgate End was where we would go to stroke the animals, not really understanding where they were headed off to afterwards, followed by a stop off at 'Carr and Bury' to choose the special fabric for my First Holy Communion dress whilst admiring the beautiful ribbons and buttons on display.

Crossing over at the bottom end of North Street would be to see Dolly in the sweet shop who would nimbly climb a ladder to pull down shiny glass jars of pear drops and barley sugars, a quick hello to the staff at 'Saville's greengrocers', a nip into the cafe at 'Pearsons', through the beautiful perfume counters and tread carefully up past the china/ glass section and out, via 'Spoils' the kichen shop situated under the Corn exchange. One of my cousins worked in the old Woolworth's in Potter Street where we would often try out the selection of bouncy balls on offer. 'Clement Joscelyne' was the place where we were always strictly told by my mother, 'Don't touch', 'Stevens' was the music shop where we bought our first recorders, much to the delight of our neighbours and finishing off at the Toy shop where the South Street pantry is now, to choose an item for our dolls house, but only if we had been well behaved.

In the 1950/60's South Street was the site of the town Fire station, where my late Father was based and photographed for prosperity with his colleagues, before it moved up to Patmore close. I have a strong family connection and many happy memories of the town, even though parts of it have changed quite beyond recognition. There is a really interesting website full of Bishop's Stortford history which if you want to take a walk back down memory lane is well worth a look. St Joseph's Church, as well as our local Catholic schools feature on there too - <https://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk/>

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS- the family and friends of Daniel Duggan RIP beloved father of Sheila who sadly died recently.

Eternal rest grant unto Daniel O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he 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 23, 2021, 08:30 AM London

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

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 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 the remaining sessions:

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. 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), 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.

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.

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/>

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE - aged 18-35yrs. Do you like to make music? Do you wonder what your path is and what God's plan is for your life? Everyone is called by God, be it in the specific vocation to marriage or to a consecrated life, but also in general in every moment of our lives. Why not share your thoughts and ideas about your own life's journey and God's calling to each of us through the lyrics and music of a song that may help others on their own journey. You will have the chance to not only win cash prizes but also be part of a professional CD production with your song and receive feedback from accomplished musicians on the jury. See our web site for more info <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/05/21/vocation-music-award-2021/>

Apply now with your song for the Vocation Music Award 2021: <https://www.vocation-music-award.com/uk/>

THE PASSAGE - Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Patron of The Passage, will celebrate the 5.30 Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 25 May 2021 to mark 40 years of service to homeless people. The Mass will be broadcast live online, so if you would like to follow the service from home, the link is: <https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/> If you would like to attend the Mass in person, this may be possible, but the Cathedral has a strict limit under the current Covid regulations. Please register your interest with us and we will let you know on Monday 24th May if a place is available. Please contact andrew.h@passage.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL MISSING CHILD'S DAY 25 May 2021 More than 1 million children are reported missing every year -<https://www.icmec.org/global-missing-childrens-center/imcd/>

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS - to all of our Confirmation Candidates, who have been so patient waiting to receive this Sacrament, since last year! It has been wonderful that they were finally able to do so during this week leading up to Pentecost. Please do continue to keep all of our young people in your prayers.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention and 'BIG' thanks to Clare and John Wright, David Ring, Dom Tisi and Mike Sullivan who kindly shared their time and talents assisting at the two Confirmation Masses this week along with Sophie, our Catechetical Coordinator, Fr Peter and Fr Antonio. Thank you also to everyone who has kindly helped to supply disinfectant wipes and cleaning products for the Church, particularly to Meg who arranged for an Amazon delivery of wipes and gel, topped off with some special 'dunking biscuits!' Thank you to our Gardening Club ladies who also did a great job at the WCC this week, Maureen, Sharon & Yvonne and to Hope, Jim, Liz Martin, Michael and Peter from Holy Cross for leading the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer sessions via Zoom -Thank you all VERY much.

To finish this week an ecumenical prayer for all Christians, from Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', kindly shared by Yvonne Fordyce

O God, Trinity of love

from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love.

Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognising him crucified

in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world and risen in each brother or sister who makes a new start.

*Come Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all peoples of the earth, so that we discover anew that all are important, and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity that God so loves.
Amen.*

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy week filled with the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

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