

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Solemnity of 'The Most Holy Trinity'

As always, there is much in our readings at Mass this Sunday.

In the first reading we are very forcibly reminded that there is only one God and our destiny lies with Him, and it easily follows that the response to the Psalm is, *"Happy the people the Lord has chosen as His own"*. The letter to the Romans enforces that and adds the presence of the Spirit as a guarantee, as it were, of that promise, *"..we are children of God"*. The Alleluia verse praises the Holy Trinity and then leads us to the Gospel reading itself.

St Matthew presents a scene to us, which leads us to the very end of the words of his Gospel, *"And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."* To me these are immensely powerful, and deeply comforting, words. I believe they mean exactly what they say. There is for me no doubt, no grey areas in this statement. It is a true promise and God cannot, not keep His promise! I believe that Jesus says that to equip us for what he commands us immediately before, that we will spread His name and His truth throughout the world, wherever we are planted.

All this happen, we are told by Matthew, on a mountain in Galilee, *"...where Jesus has arranged to meet them"*.

It is that phrase of Matthew's; *"where Jesus had agreed to meet them"* that I think troubles me. What concerns me is, bluntly, how many appointments with Jesus have I missed? Now there's a thought for us to carry with us this coming week!

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 28 May 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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

Fri 5/28/2021 1:56 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 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity which can also be found on our website.

Numbers have been a talking point this week following our unfortunate 'Eurovision' result of 'Nul point'. I must admit that I have not really been an avid fan of the show, but my family are, so I have been reluctantly sucked in along the way to join in with their excitement watching the 'ultimate cheese fest of entertainment!' This year with most family members being in different places, there were various comments being shared over 'WhatsApp' as to who was their favourite with a division of votes. I remember the bygone days of 'Brotherhood of Man' and 'Bucks Fizz' and of course in 2018, our very talented 'SuRi', who many local people will know with her amazingly, beautiful singing voice, but other than that, I will sit quietly, (trying my hardest not to be a party pooper) watching and waiting for it all to be over until the next year.

On a completely different note, regarding numbers, Fr Peter shared with me some interesting Vatican annual statistics the other day on our Church throughout the world. Did you know that there are approximately 7.8 billion people in the world and 1 in 7 are baptised Catholics? There are 61,696,155 children and young people being educated in Catholic primary and secondary schools, 3,076,624 catechists working with children, young people and adults to explore their faith. We have 414,336 Priests and 114,058 seminarians. The Church also works in 5,192 hospitals, 15,481 dispensaries and clinics, 9,295 care homes for children and 15,423 homes for people who are elderly, chronically ill or disabled. The Church works in over 1,000 missionary dioceses and this is thanks to your prayerful support and continued generosity...

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS all of our young people who celebrated their leavers Mass at St Mary's this week with Fr Peter. We remember and give thanks to their teachers, school community and parents who have supported and guided them during a particularly difficult time and continue to do so. May they go forwards confident in themselves for the next stage of their lives, showing love, compassion and kindness, willing to serve others and knowing that God is always with them.

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 30, 2021, 08:30 AM London

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

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/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

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.

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/>

DEADLINE IS APPROACHING !! 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 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.

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/>

CLEANER VACANCIES AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL -St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are looking for cleaners to join their team 7.00am to 9.00am and/or 3.30pm to 5.30pm weekdays, term time only with possible overtime during school holidays. Please contact Nicola McManus 01279 652576 sbmanager@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk for an application form. The school is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and two satisfactory references.

CHILD SAFETY WEEK - 1-7 June 2021 -<https://www.capt.org.uk/Pages/Category/child-safety-week>

BEDA COLLEGE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND - For men between the ages of 30 and 55, the Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend from 3rd to 5th September 2021. It will take place at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales and is aimed at reaching those not already in touch with their diocese to explore the possibility of priestly vocation. Information and registration forms can be found at <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>.

ST JOSEPH'S IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER DURING THE WEEK - Following a Diocesan Health and Safety assessment last week, we are pleased to announce that St Joseph's is now open for private prayer during the week from 10.30am to 3pm (the times may be subject to change to accommodate other events in the Church taking place such as a Requiem Mass or Funeral service). The Church is closed immediately after the 9.30am Mass, so that our thorough daily deep clean can be completed and then re-opened afterwards. There is still the requirement to use the Track and Trace QR Code upon entry, sanitise your hands and wear a face mask if not exempt from doing so for private prayer. In order to assist us in keeping the Church open, we have left out disinfectant spray and wipes and kindly request that you help by cleaning your own pew and kneeler after you have finished praying, please.

At the current time we still require you please to **book** a seat at Mass until further notice as we continue to have limited seating available to allow for social distancing.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY ONLY - The Parish Office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 31st May but open again on Tuesday 1st June 9am-3pm.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention and 'BIG' thanks to the very lovely Jean Hind from Most Holy Redeemer. Each month Jean sends through a cheery email including the MHR anniversary list of those parishioners to be included in our Bidding prayers-Thank you VERY much Jean!

To finish this week still on the theme of numbers, a prayer to the power of 'three', being the Most Holy Trinity.

*GLORY BE TO THE FATHER,
AND TO THE SON,
AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT,
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING,
IS NOW AND EVERY SHALL BE,
WORLD WITHOUT END.
AMEN.*

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy Half term week with hopefully lots of sunshine!

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

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

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