

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped.” Like the disciples in Sunday’s Gospel, we all experience gales and winds in our lives. Sometimes when this happens, we pray but get no answers. It seems that God is out of reach, his phone is switched off, or that he is asleep. But this is never the case because God is there all the time, watching us from a distance.

Extreme weather conditions are being reported more frequently in recent years. We also encounter social and emotional storms. The Catholic Church has been through quite a storm of controversy in recent years, about the abuse of children and vulnerable adults; and the after-effects of this are still painfully present. As individuals, we can find ourselves battling against the elements of life, as we struggle for one reason or another, to keep our balance in life.

Jesus warned that stormy times will come to all of us. We need to ask how equipped are we to deal with them. When the boat rocks, will we find ourselves tossed about helplessly, or is there a way to be purified by the storm and then move through and beyond it? Jesus is our calm when the storm comes. If we listen to him and continue to trust him, we will be able to ride out the storm and get on with life. Jesus shows us how to survive and thrive: by believing in him and having faith in him. With his word as our anchor, the Lord will see to it that we stand firm, regardless of how wildly the storms may blow.

Thomas Merton, an American Trappist monk and theologian, wrote that in daylight we can see the objects that are near us, but it is only in the darkness of night that we can see the distant stars. Trust God in times of darkness and eventually we will see the stars which brighten our lives. God is using the night of faith to make our faith deeper than a matter of how we feel.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 18 June 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 6/18/2021 4:56 PM

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

 1 attachments (26 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, which can also be found on our web site.

With the Euro 2020 football season now in mid flow, it was a shock last Saturday to see the TV footage following the heart attack of Christian Erikson on the pitch. Without the expertise of the medics, the availability of a defibrillator and I am sure, divine intervention, it could have been a very different story. Exactly one year ago, just a short distance away from the front door of St Joseph's Church, a lovely lady called Jeanette, who had been walking along Windhill with her family, suddenly collapsed and suffered a heart attack. Fortunately, the public access defibrillator which we had applied for and funded some months previously was nearby. Our first aid trained workmen along with another couple working on a house across the road went to Jeanette's immediate assistance performing CPR and utilising the defibrillator, before the paramedics and an air ambulance arrived on scene. Jeanette received CPR for an astounding 45 minutes in total and thankfully survived.

It was truly wonderful to meet Jeanette and her family again some weeks afterwards, knowing that our defibrillator and early intervention of the fantastic first aiders had ultimately helped to save her life. Yesterday we received a heartfelt email on the first anniversary of the event from Jeanette's husband and family, "*I'm please to say Jeanette is doing extremely well and living a 'normal' life, well as much as covid restrictions permit. Our son Adam is getting married on 10th July, so we and the family are really looking forward to that. As I have said before words cannot express our thanks to you and all the helpers that morning. To have Jeanette still with us is just amazing*".

We carried out CPR and defibrillator training for parishioners before COVID-19 and aim to be in a position to do this again once permitted to do so. All of the British heart foundation training videos were uploaded to our website, so if you have a few spare minutes this weekend, please do consider watching them. A defibrillator is very easy to use, with full audio instructions provided once you have opened the lid. The worst thing that you can actually do, is nothing..

<https://www.bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk/news/cardiac-arrest-victim-remembers-nothing-of-45-minute-battle-to-save-her-9148769/> (Jeanette's Story)

<https://rcstortford.org.uk/defibrillator-heart-restarter-and-cpr/> (Our website link to CPR and defibrillator training)

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS the family and friends of Audrey Costley RIP who sadly died recently. Audrey was a wonderful lady and a great member of our Justice and Peace team who will be greatly missed.

Eternal rest grant unto Audrey O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen

CONGRATULATIONS - We send our love, prayers and grateful thanks to Fr Peter who celebrates his 27th year of ordination to the Priesthood this Saturday.

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: June 20, 2021, 08:30 AM London

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

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0od-GoqT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-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

RETROUVAILE AND MARRIAGE CARE

<https://www.retrouvaile.org.uk/about.html> is a well-regard Catholic resource for couples with marital problems including those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated or divorced who want help to try again. The next virtual weekend is 1st- 4th July 2021

<https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/> founded in the Diocese of Westminster, Marriage Care provides a donation only counselling service for couples

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.

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/>

DAY FOR LIFE - 20th June - This year's theme for 'Day for Life' focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. Online resources have been produced to inform Catholics about this threat to life and to share with people our response to such a threat: a true compassion as the just response to the immense value of the human person.

'Day for Life' adds an authenticity to our witness to the dignity of life and this is enabled by the generosity of people in supporting our work. In 2020, we were unable to hold our annual 'Day for Life' collection due to the pandemic, our funds are very much depleted and the threats to life have never been greater. 'Day for Life' is a simple practical response which pushes back against 'the use and throwaway logic' often at the heart of a culture which seeks to abandon its elderly, sick and dying when 'they no longer serve our interests.' The Day for Life website is <https://www.dayforlife.org>

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>.

HOLIDAY BIBLE WEEK - HBW 2021 - Monday 2nd-Friday 6th August 2021. It will be happening this year but in a different format!

Due to the current pandemic situation, we will be running the morning sessions over YouTube and Facebook.

These will include Stories/Puppets/Music and games. Everything that your children will have seen and enjoyed in previous years.

In the afternoons there will be an opportunity for your child to attend one afternoon "live" session at the Baptist Church Centre. Each day will be age specific and are planned to be: Monday 5's and 9's, Tuesday 6's and 10's, Wednesday 7's and 11's, Thursday 8's. Friday- all sessions live on social media.

Your child/children must be signed up in the usual way using the link on our website:
www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk

The final date for signing up will be Friday 18th June 2021. There will be a maximum of 20 children per age group, so it is important that you sign up as soon as possible to have a chance of your child being given a place.

If you are unfortunate to not receive a place on one of the afternoons, you will still be able to collect a craft pack free of charge which will be available from the Charis Centre in Water Lane and the Emmaus Centre at St James' Church, Thorley. We will also have the Hotline team at each of these centres so your children will be able to have a chat and pray with them if they wish.

HBW will be different this year, but it is the organisers intention to keep the feel and spirit of it alive during this week in August. It is our hope and prayer that we will be back to normal for 2022.

CATECHISTS WANTED - The parish is currently looking for some parishioners willing to volunteer their time to journey with individuals in the parish who maybe finding out more about their faith – in particular, we would love some extra support for our young people preparing for Confirmation. You do not need to be an expert in theology or have a halo to polish in order to volunteer! In fact, enthusiasm and a readiness to develop yourself is all that is needed to get started. Training and support will be given.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch with Sophie Sullivan at bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk or call Debbie in the parish office.

You may also like to look at the Catechists' page on our website:
<https://rcstortford.org.uk/ministries/catechists/>

RCIA - " Do you have questions?"

Do you have questions about the Catholic faith? The reality of living under the restrictions imposed by the pandemic may have stirred within you a growing desire to connect or – indeed – to reconnect with God. The lockdown may have caused you to look again at life's purpose and meaning.

Do any of these questions apply to you?

- Are you new to the parish – but are not a member of the Catholic Church – and would like to find out more about what we believe?
- Maybe you are from another denomination within the Christian Family, but have questions about Catholicism specifically and want to know more?
- Or maybe you have been baptised a Catholic, but have lapsed or would simply like to understand the faith better?

Whatever the case, did you know that there are people within the parish who are dedicated to helping you to explore life's big questions? Everyone's journey to faith is very different, but we can assist you to find the right path. The RCIA is a programme aimed at helping you on this journey. For more information, please contact Sophie Sullivan at bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk or leave your details with Debbie in the parish office."

ST JOSEPH'S IS NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER DURING THE WEEK - Following a Diocesan Health and Safety assessment, 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. Thank you

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.

VACANCIES AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL- Current vacancies for Support staff roles including a Learning Resource Manager, Sixth form supervisor and Part time Headteacher secretary - for more info see <http://www.stmarys.net/about-us/vacancies/>

WALKING THE PARABLES OF JESUS AT WINTERSHALL - Preparations for Walking the Parables of Jesus are well underway, with 5 Parables scenes and reflection spaces along the way. The route provides access to much of the Estate with views of the lakes, travelling through the woods and seeing many animals along the way. Due to the nature of this walking event, it is not suitable for those with limited mobility. Book now for Saturday 3rd of July on their website, they also have very limited availability for Friday 2 July, please email us if you would like to come at admin@wintershall.org.uk. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/walking-parables-jesus>

They are also looking for guides to lead groups as they Walk the Parables of Jesus throughout the week. All training provided and you enjoy the show for free. Email them if you are able to help at: admin@wintershall.org.uk

LONDON JESUIT CENTRE COURSE - ' Scripture from Scratch' , an introduction to the bible. See the website for more info. <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/intro-to-the-bible>

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK - On Wednesday 23rd June, the Vigil of St John the Baptist, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. <https://www.facebook.com/events/121521016724148>

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention to Denise who very kindly offered to jet wash the patio of number 3 making it look super clean! Thank you also to Joel and Chris who helped to move some very heavy items -You're all brilliant!

To finish, '*Lord, help us to trust in you. Strengthen our faith so that we can speak your truth without fear. 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

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

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