

### The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We read in this Sunday's Gospel: *'She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his cloak. "If I can touch even his clothes," she had told herself "I shall be well again."*' This event is part of a sandwich of stories, for her desire and her cure are the filling of a sandwich of which the slices of bread are about Jairus' daughter. It is to me as if St Mark just can't wait to tell us and so he squeezes it in in the middle of another of Jesus' miracle – a dramatic raising from the dead. And yet it is as if St Mark is saying we don't have to wait for the great dramatic miracles for there are also other, secret ones, which involve a desperation just as deep as that of being faced by death.

When we reflect on the story about the woman that St Mark tells us we are not at all surprised that Jesus heals her, it is what we have come to expect: the Lord knows our deepest needs and will always respond to them if we but ask. What takes us aback is her faith: *'If I can touch even his clothes...'* Such humility, such timidity, such courage... She knows He has what she needs, having tried expensive doctors and worldly remedies, and now she has *'heard about him'* and it has rung true in her heart. It is the hearing that has given her hope, as today it does us. Her courage is that she goes to Him, even though she does it in such a timid way. And having healed her Jesus calls on her to come out into the open, so frightening one would have thought for her, and yet He gives her a new courage as He says to her: *'My daughter your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be freed from your complaint.'*

And that is just what He says to us, every day, as we come timidly before Him, come because we have heard of Him and we have spent all that we have in trying to be ourselves and yet not managing to find a way without Him.

*Fr Peter*

## Parish Note Friday 25th June 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 6/25/2021 2:19 PM

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

📎 1 attachments (15 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

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

Last weekend, I decided to do just a little bit of gardening and spent a day tackling some enormous triffid type weeds which seemed to have sprouted out of nowhere. Throughout most of the day, I was accompanied by an adorable, friendly robin, one of a much-loved pair who lives in my garden and who seems to be fairly tame and have absolutely no fear of humans. He usually likes to sit on the top of the rotary washing line or on a particular branch of my Cherry Blossom tree watching the other birds including 'Big pigeon' and 'Chum' down below and will come out for a daily scattering of mealworms and seeds. My 'companion' was close by at all times and would venture nearer, patiently waiting to see if I had uncovered with my garden fork any delectable treasures. At one point he stood on the handle of the brown bin as I walked over with my offerings on a rake and did not move at all, with his bright, little, button eyes eagerly surveying what I had. On average, robins only live a couple of years, but a few do reach quite an advanced age. The oldest known wild individual was 11 years 5 months.

There was an interesting article written in the 'Catholic Herald', last year on the symbolic nature of birds and in particular ... *'Birds being closely associated with Christ', especially robins, whose red breast is said to symbolise the Precious Blood. There are however competing explanations: in one version, the robin's feathers were stained crimson as the bird removed the Crown of Thorns. An alternative view of the bird's striking colouration relates to an earlier episode in Christ's life. This suggested that the robin fanned the flames of an open fire in the Bethlehem stable to warm the new-born baby Jesus and got so close that its breast was singed to red'. Robins have a kind of religious significance in the classic children's tale Babes in the Wood. Two small children are abandoned in a forest by their wicked uncle, and eventually tragically come to their demise. Robins then fly down and carefully cover up the children's bodies with leaves, to give them a form of Christian burial.*

*The robin's red breast also gave rise to its close association with Christmas – but this is a secular, rather than a religious connection. During Victorian times, the first postmen wore red uniforms, and so were nicknamed "robins". Then someone had the bright idea of producing festive cards for people to send to their friends and family; the first designs showed a robin, dressed in a postman's uniform, carrying a card in its beak. Later on, the custom arose of charitable donors giving a free meal to poor children at Christmas; an event known as the "Robin's Dinner"....*

**CANCELLATION OF MASS AT HOLY CROSS** - Unfortunately there will be no 11.30am Mass this Sunday 27th June at Holy Cross. We apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment caused.

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD** -Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the four deacons who will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Westminster on Saturday 26 June at 10.30am by the Cardinal: Rev William Johnstone, Rev Jakub Jozsko, Rev Timothy Mangatal and Rev Marco Salvagnini. The Mass will be live streamed from the Cathedral: [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk)

**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 27, 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=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWftwtlclgqd0tE\\_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi](https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/tZ0od-GogT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWftwtlclgqd0tE_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.retrouvaille.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

**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/>

**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** - Due to the current pandemic and the restrictions, HBW will have a new format this year!

The morning sessions (approx. 10-11:30am) will be online on YouTube and Facebook, with all the things we all love about HBW: a mixture of live teaching, songs, puppets and games.

In the afternoon there will be live sessions run at the Baptist Church from 1:30 - 4pm

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](http://www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk)

#### Holiday Bible Week Bishop's Stortford

Community. Holiday Bible Week is a community effort put together by members of churches all over Bishop's Stortford, Thorley and further afield.

[www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk](http://www.holidaybibleweek.co.uk)

**The final date for signing up will be Friday 2nd July 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 and do not receive a place on one of the afternoons, you will still be able to watch the morning sessions online and collect a craft pack free of charge which will be available from the Baptist Church on Twyford road and the Emmaus Centre at The Emmaus Centre, St James' Church, Thorley on Sunday 1st August. 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.



We hope to have these venues available for dropping off the children's work through the week, so that Emily and Eddie can have a look - a bit like our usual post box on site.

We are hoping and praying to keep the feel and spirit of HBW alive during this week in August with your help and involvement.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

**FLOWER ARRANGERS** - St James Church at Thorley will be holding its annual Festival of Flowers and Music over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. We are looking for some more flower arrangers and would be grateful if this message could be circulated to your Church Community. Arrangers absolutely do not need to be 'experts' and can work in pairs if preferred. We really just need some willing hands and hearts!

Please contact Pippa Roy-Chowdhury if you are able to help - [philippa\\_roychowdhury@hotmail.com](mailto:philippa_roychowdhury@hotmail.com)

**VACANCIES AT ACROSS** - for a PCV Jumbulance driver( £18-£25K depending on experience- pro-rata to hours worked) and a Communications and Fundraising Officer( £22,000 depending on experience. (pro-rata to hours worked).

See <https://www.across.org.uk/jobs-at-across/>

**JOBS AT THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE** - The London Jesuit Centre in central London is looking to appoint: a Housekeeper (permanent, 35-hrs/week, £525/week; responsible for leading a team of cleaners/housekeeping staff) and a Receptionist (permanent, 6-hrs/day, 2.00-8.00pm, £390/week).

Further information: [www.londonjesuitcentre.org/jobs](http://www.londonjesuitcentre.org/jobs)

**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING** - 26 June 2021

- <https://www.un.org/en/events/drugabuseday/>

**FAITH AND REASON RESIDENTIAL COURSE**- For those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith, as well as to spend time in the beautiful surrounds of the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst in Lancashire, this residential course called "Faith and Reason: A Catholic Integration" takes place between 5-8 August 2021. Lectures are from experienced tutors. There is an opportunity for discussion, questions and social time and full board and lodging in en-suite accommodation is provided. Please see our web post for more details: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/06/24/faith-and-reason-residential-course/>

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week a special mention to Leoni for her beautiful flower displays, which we have missed during the pandemic, and to our team of flower ladies, Alba, Anne and Monica who kindly give so much of their time and will be sharing their floral talents starting again at St Joseph's over the next few months. Thank you all very much!

To finish, this week a poem on the Passion written and kindly shared by Tammy Fernando, which was beautifully illustrated with a robin.

### *Drops of Red*

*Who is this man?  
I know Him! He is the One who created me!  
From my little olive branch, I see Him quiver and quake  
As do I  
Drops of red fall from His brow  
And in my red breast I wonder ...how?  
I fly past the crowd and see Him stagger and fall  
And I wonder...'Should I call?'  
I chirrup, "I love You!" and His eyes of love meet mine  
With love, the cross He bears for all mankind  
Snail-like He leaves a trail of red in His wake...  
And my red breast cries out, "O' for pity's sake!"  
Raised on the cross, I perch near the sign  
He is gone – this Creator of mine  
In the dead hush, I feel so sad  
But I know this Jesus will somehow make us glad  
Covered in red from head to toe  
My robin redbreast can take no more  
In my nest, my Creator comes to me  
"Don't be afraid, my friend  
All is well – you will see  
Once again, we shall sing...just you and Me  
Dreams of red give way to cool snow  
He puts me in His heart, and He'll never let me go*

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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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](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)

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