

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WHAT WILL THINGS LOOK LIKE AFTER 19 JULY IN OUR CHURCHES?

With the good news that the country will begin the next stage of coming out of lockdown on 19th July, you may be wondering about what life will be like in our Churches: will we still need to book a place at Mass; do I need to wear a mask; how long will Mass be; will Readers and Eucharistic Ministers return and if so, when? will we have refresher training; has my DBS expired; can we sing; will we be able to receive the Precious Blood; will Holy water, incense and votive candles return etc?

Well, it will begin with the government making its announcements to the country on July 19th. It then seems to take about 24 hours before the government releases all the final details of how it will affect us. Then our own Bishops' Conference will send the new guidelines, with notes on how best to implement them, to each of the Bishops, whose own offices will then send them out to each Parish with any extra notes that may be affected by where the Diocese are, geographically.... reflecting the local situation.

So, we are guided by our Diocese and will advise everyone as soon as possible as we carefully work our way back to a new normality. Our Churches will continue to be regularly cleaned and fogged after Mass so that we keep up the good practice we have adopted throughout lockdown.

But right away we can start getting information together. SO... if you have been a Eucharistic Minister (*either at Mass or visiting the Sick or Housebound*), Reader, Altar server, Musician or Welcomer, and are now willing to continue in your volunteer role, **please do let us know now**, so that we can start to plan the way forward. Please send a simple email to our parish office– bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk (or give us a ring on 01279 654063) giving us your details and telling us which ministry, in due course, you might be willing to return to, either immediately or in the future...

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 9th July 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 7/9/2021 2:38 PM

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

📎 1 attachments (16 KB)

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

Good afternoon

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

With Wimbledon in full flow and the exciting football match final on Sunday dominating the news headlines, this week, I thought I would share a few completely random fun facts, which start off with a mild football theme but oddly end up with fruit, just to mix things up a little. So, did you know that...

- The longest wedding veil was the same length as 63.5 football fields, when Maria Paraskeva, a woman from Cyprus, got married in August 2018,
- Sea lions can dance to a beat.
- The Twitter bird's official name is Larry.
- The "M"s in M&Ms stand for "Mars" and "Murrie."
- Your nostrils work one at a time
- It is physically impossible to lick your elbow
- In 2016 a Gorilla who escaped from London Zoo drank 5 litres of undiluted blackcurrant squash during his breakout
- One of the first chimpanzees in London Zoo came from Bristol by overnight coach
- Shakespeare's epitaph contains a curse for grave robbers
- Almost 163,000 pints of Guinness are wasted in facial hair each year
- Ikea sofas have Swedish names, their rugs have Danish names and beds Norwegian names
- A group of Ladybirds is called a loveliness
- Concrete is stronger if carrots are added to it.
- A whole orange can float on water but sinks if you peel it
- Bananas have more trade regulations than AK-47s.
- Almost everyone who reads this will try to lick their elbow!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - the Sisters of Ware Carmel and the family and friends of Sister Christina RIP who sadly died very recently.

Eternal rest grant unto Sister Christina O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she 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: July 11, 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-GoqT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-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

REQUIEM MASS - A Requiem Mass for Bill Spencer RIP will take place at St Theresa of Lisieux in Stansted on Tuesday 13th July 2021 at 2.30pm. Please keep Rosemary and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE - 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.

Monday 2nd August and Monday 9th August 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. If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office so that we can send you one for completion so that we have your details on file.

CONFIRMATIONS 2021-2022- As you know, with the challenges brought on by the pandemic, we decided to put a pause on Confirmations this year and concentrated on ensuring that last year's group were able to celebrate the sacrament, after it had been postponed in 2020.

We plan to kick-start our Confirmation programme again this autumn. What form it will take (i.e. in person or virtual) has yet to be established, as we are awaiting up-to-date government announcements and also need to make the necessary decisions regarding use of our parish facilities. However, we would like to gauge interest, as this will enable us to plan accordingly.

If you are a young person with a birthday on or before 31 August 2007 and would like to make your confirmation in 2022, please do get in touch, in the first instance, with our Catechetical Coordinator, Sophie Sullivan, by Friday 30th July, to express your interest. Please email her at bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk or phone the parish office on 01279 654063 to leave your details.

JULY - By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotions. July is devoted to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. See our website for more info <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/07/01/july-is-dedicated-to-the-most-precious-blood-of-our-lord/>

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>.

SEA SUNDAY -This Sunday is Sea Sunday (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's maritime welfare charity. You can donate in one of three ways, by using a giving envelope which will be at the exit point of St Joseph's Church, Text SEA to 70460 to donate £5 or visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate Thank you

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 OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER DURING THE WEEK - St Joseph's remains open for private prayer during the week from approximately 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. At the current time, 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 of writing, 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. This may hopefully change after 19 July but we shall await guidance from the Diocese.

HOLY CROSS IS ALSO OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER - St Andrew's Church is open every day for private prayer from around 9am until 6/7pm. Everyone entering the Church should please sanitise their hands, wear a face

mask unless exempt and put his or her name in the book by the entrance through the porch or use the QR Code for track and trace purposes.

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

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/>

JOB 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

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/>

WALK WITH AMAL- 'Little Amal', a 3.5-metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, created by the acclaimed Handspring Puppet Company, will be travelling through the UK between 18 July and 3 November. Representing all displaced children, Little Amal will travel over 8,000km embodying the urgent message "Don't forget about us." Experience the journey of Amal as she travels from the Syria-Turkey border to safety in the UK. <https://www.walkwithamal.org> Follow on Twitter: @walkwithamal

YOUNG CHRISTIAN CLIMATE NETWORK RELAY (YCCN) – from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow, 13th June - 1st November. Ecumenical relay for climate justice led by young Christians (18-30s.) Older adults and accompanied children can join in support. Events taking place in 10 cities "Residencies" along the way. Overnight stops in Ashford and Twickenham 2-3 August, climate events in London 5-8 Aug, overnights in Muswell Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Tring and Watford 9-13 August. Join me and other walkers along the route for a day or more while the Relay is in the Diocese! Sign up to walk or offer support along the way - <https://www.yccn.uk/> Follow on Twitter [@YCCNetwork](https://twitter.com/YCCNetwork)

ACTIVITIES VACANCY - Conewood Manor are looking for someone to join their Activities team. You would be responsible for creating a fulfilling program for our residents. For a full job description please click here: <https://indeedhi.re/3jvmSYu>.

SELF-CARE FOR VOLUNTEERS - 13 July and 14 September, 13:00 – 14:00, on Zoom 'You can't pour from an empty cup - take care of yourself first'.

As we are volunteering to support others, who is it that helps the helper when the pressure of a role becomes too much, when we disagree with another volunteer or client, or we have a bad day?

Come to one of the regular support sessions run by Caritas Westminster and the Irish Chaplaincy, to learn some tips and strategies for self-care, with opportunities for further support if you need it.

Please register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/self-care-for-staff-and-volunteers-tickets-138513887767>

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING - 21 September, 10 – 11:30 am, Zoom. Eventbrite link:

Thinking about volunteering? Find out how to get started at a free interactive session run by Caritas Westminster. It is for people thinking about or just starting out in volunteering. Explore what your perfect role could be and how to find it, discover what your first days might be like, and how to deal with issues that may crop up along the way. This event covers all the basic need-to-knows about becoming a volunteer.

Book your place on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/introduction-to-volunteering-tickets-159672389415>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH THE CARITAS VOLUNTEER SERVICE - The Caritas Volunteer Service is growing! We are looking for a couple of volunteers who share our passion for social action and volunteering. This is an opportunity to help transform lives throughout the Diocese by helping charities and outreach projects find volunteers. Deadline for applications: 31 July. For more information please contact: <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-with-us.php>

ADVANCED NOTICE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022 - For parents of children in Year 3 in September 2021 (born on or before 31st August 2014)

First Holy Communion classes will begin in January 2022. **Application forms will be available from 1st September 2021** and should be returned by half term - Friday 22nd October 2021. Further information will follow in due course...

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention to Marie Pate and our First Holy Communion Catechists who are already working towards the planning of 2022, with Sophie and Fr Antonio. Thank you very much for everything that you have been doing and continue to do to help support the children in our parish.

To finish this week.. Pope Francis said, *"Sports can open the way to Christ in those places or environments where, for different reasons, it is not possible to announce Him directly; and people, with their witness of joy, practicing a sport as a community, can be messengers of the Good News."*

Hope that you all have a very happy and healthy week and that 'football does come home(!)'

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
Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>
Follow our Live streaming on www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford