

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

“Oh Lord, I have had enough.” These are the words that the prophet Elijah addresses to God in our first reading this weekend.

How often have you felt that?. or, indeed, firmly said that to the good Lord ? If your answer is ‘Yes’ then you ought to know that you are not alone! The Old Testament is full of examples of people, called by God, who give up, albeit sometimes only for a moment perhaps, but they definitely do give up. Perhaps many of us have felt that at different times over the last 18 months...

And, what is God’s reaction when we tell Him we have had enough? Well, read on... “Get up and eat!” – that is God’s reaction – he feeds and nourishes us so that we have the strength and the determination, to follow His call – Elijah himself, we are told here, manages to walk for forty days and forty nights on that one meal!

So, don’t worry about getting despondent, because if we do, He will send His angels to feed us and give us strength for what is needed. The important thing is that we admit we can’t manage it all under our own steam – that we need His nourishment to keep us going.

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 6 August 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 8/6/2021 3:43 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 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time which can be found on our parish website.

There is an old gravestone in a Churchyard the other side of Hertfordshire which has the most wonderful inscription carved upon it. It simply says.

" We shall pass through this world just once.
Any good therefore or any kindness we can do,
Let us do it now.
We shall not pass by this way again."

It was heart-warming to see these words in action this past week when we discovered that we had a gentleman who had found himself homeless, quietly sleeping in the porch of St Joseph's. Without him asking for anything, he was provided with food, clothing, comfort, friendship and eventual shelter. Upon waking to discover that he had been left a hearty meal in a bag by his side one morning from another anonymous passer-by, he said, 'People here have been so kind and generous, but the sad thing is, I didn't get the chance to say thank you'... so, on behalf of Wesley, 'Thank you'..

PLANNED WORKS ON WINDHILL - Works are continuing on Windhill to connect electricity to the new hotel being built near to the railway station. We do not believe that the disabled parking bays will be affected but there will be disruption to the footpath and road. We have advised the company of the details of our Mass times and all other Church events.

Lydon Contracting, on behalf of UK Power Solutions, will be excavating along the footpath on Windhill (from The Granary to St Michaels Church) between 04/08/21 – 29/08/21 to allow for new HV electricity ducts to be installed. During this time, we kindly ask that you refrain from parking within the works area outside of these properties. As soon as the barriers are removed from the parking bays you may park your vehicle again. Our prime objective is to ensure the works are carried out in a safe and efficient manner with every effort being made to keep disruption to a minimum. On completion, all trenches will be backfilled and reinstated to the required highways specification. Your co-operation and patience during these essential works are appreciated.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS- the family and friends of Leonard 'James' Suggitt RIP, beloved husband of Marjorie, who sadly died very recently.
Eternal rest grant unto James O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

PLANNING THE RETURN OF READERS, ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - 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, or no longer wish to continue, please do let us know now(if you have not done so already) so that we can start to plan the way forward. Please send a simple email to our parish office– bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk (or call 01279 654063) providing your details and telling us which ministry , at which mass and which church in due course, you might be willing to return to, either immediately or in the future. Thank you very much to everyone who has responded so far.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED SEATING - If you sit in the 'socially distanced ' seating side of the Church, we thank you for continuing to wear a face mask.

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 4th October and Monday 11th October 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.

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.

RETREAT DAY - For young adults. Join the Assumption Sisters for a monastic retreat day in the Benedictine Douai Abbey on Saturday 14th August 2021. Cost £25 Including travel from London Paddington and lunch To register visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/184613847011340/>

ADVANCED NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF THE PARISH OFFICE - Debbie will be taking a two-week break from Monday 30 August (Bank holiday) - Friday 10th September inclusive. Any non-urgent enquiries during this time will be dealt with immediately upon her return.

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...

ADVANCED NOTICE OF A PLANNED EVENT IN THE MONASTERY GARDENS - On Saturday 28 August 2021 at 2.30pm and 6.30pm there will be two open air Children's shows, ' Mr Stink' held on the Monastery gardens organised by Bishop's Stortford Town Council. No parking will be permitted behind St Joseph's Church. If you are planning to attend the 6pm Mass, please be aware that there may be an increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic from 5.30pm onwards when the event opens.

CHOIR AND SINGERS WANTED -It is hoped to have a choir to sing at the service for the 800th anniversary of St Andrews/ Holy Cross Church on Saturday 18th September 2021. Singers who have previously sung with the regular choir for Christmas Carol Services are warmly invited to join for this, as are any other singers who have not previously joined us. Please send an email indicating interest to stephen@penton.eclipse.co.uk by 15th August. There will probably be two or three rehearsals on Saturday mornings prior to the weekend.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY -12 August. <https://www.un.org/en/events/youthday/>

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST - Bike 'n Hike - Saturday 11 September 2021 9am - 5pm. have fun visiting over 600 Churches and Chapels, raise funds for your local church and help save other churches in Beds and Herts. For more info www.b-n-h.co.uk . Sponsorship packs are available at the back of St Joseph's Church if you would like to take part.

STORTFORD KICKSTART - Job hunting? Helping people back to work. at the Methodist Church, South Street, Bishop's Stortford, open Thursday and Friday 10am -12.30pm with free professional advice on CV's, cover letters, internet job search, interview training and skills. www.stortfordkickstart.org.uk Tel; 01279 501745

SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Looking for a new challenge? Could you visit schools in your local area to deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work and encourage young people to take action, fundraise and pray with CAFOD? No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. We are especially in need of volunteers happy to visit schools in Hertfordshire, Ealing, Brent, Hounslow and Camden.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEEDED (VOLUNTEER POSITION) - CAFOD Westminster is looking for a well-organised and friendly person to help coordinate their school visits programme from September. This role would suit someone who is comfortable speaking to other volunteers and schools and also in using spreadsheets and databases.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer roles, please contact Chris Driscoll at westminsterschools@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493162

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention to Anne, Anna and Catriona who spent time sorting through the stock in the Repository at St Joseph's and replenishing the supply of Mass cards - Thank you Ladies! Thank you also to two young gentlemen Gregory and Vincent for their super enthusiasm and doing a great job in helping to clean the Church after Mass this week - Thank you!

To finish this week on a verse from the Book of Proverbs, '*The man who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord; He will repay him for what he has done*'.

Holy Trinity Night shelter will hopefully be opening again from November. If you are able to help to support them raise valuable funds to help those who find themselves in need, please visit <https://www.htwinternightshelter.org/>

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

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

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