

Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It was Pope Francis, early in his Pontificate, who pointed out that we should always remember that St Luke, in his Gospel, tells us that Mary, *"...went as quickly as she could..."* to the help of her cousin Elizabeth. It is with that urgency, he went on to say, that Mary comes to each of us when we call on her. I never cease to marvel that we know so little of the words of Mary from the writings of the apostles, and yet, she holds such an enormous place in our Faith. Again and again, down the history of the Church, she is portrayed as a great mediator for humanity. Her words are always simple: *"Do whatever he tells you..."*, *"Let it be done to me according to your word."* Above all, for me, she sits with us and offers to take us to her son when we lack the courage to go ourselves.

Today we see clearly that the urgency of Mary's journey to Elizabeth is reflected in the actions of God Himself; for our Father moved *"as quickly as He could"* to bring her to heaven.

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 13th August 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Fri 8/13/2021 2:09 PM

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

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Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which can also be found on our parish website.

Being someone who is very easily pleased and amused, I was especially excited this week to discover that there was a live stream camera situated on the road to the 'Recycling centre' along with a website waiting time indicator for those wishing to avoid a queue at peak times. Armed with this newfound knowledge, I eagerly watched and waited to see Fr Peter, who had some items to recycle, promising to 'wave' as he drove by and hopefully appear on 'Dump cam'. Despite the 10 second time delay, I was pleasantly rewarded! Cameras have been an invaluable technological tool particularly during the lockdown and a visual way to keep in touch with our friends and loved ones when not able to meet in person. Our own Church livestream camera has attracted 683,926 visitors from 149 different countries since its installation in 2015 and continues to be a source of comfort for many who are unable to physically attend Mass. The statistics show that to date we have had 1 visitor from Vatican City.. which leaves us forever wondering as to who that one special person might just happen to be...

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS- the family and friends of Reverend Fr. Martin Gay CsxR who sadly died last Friday. Please see the below message from Fr Martin's Sister, Fiona.

Eternal rest grant unto Fr Martin O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Fr Martin Gay CsxR. He passed away peacefully on Friday morning in Liverpool. He and the family originated from Bishop's Stortford, he attended St Joseph's primary school, before going to St Ignatius. He decided that he wanted to become a Redemptorist, who at the time were at Bishop's Stortford. He was Ordained in St Joseph's Church on 7th July 1979 and became the first Catholic Priest to be Ordained in Bishops Stortford since the reformation.

The Requiem Mass for Fr Martin will be held at Our Lady of Annunciation, Bishop Eaton, Liverpool on Monday 16th August 2021 at 12pm and will be streamed live on

<https://vimeo.com/585926029/5004659d0e>



The Funeral of Father Martin Gay - Bishop Eaton Church

This is "The Funeral of Father Martin Gay - Bishop Eaton Church" by merseyside streaming on Vimeo, the home for high quality videos and the people who love...

[vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com/585926029/5004659d0e)

AU REVOIR - to Fr Peter who starts his long-awaited break after Mass this weekend and 'Welcome back!' to Fr Antonio who returns to the parish following his break on Monday.

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.

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.

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.

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

COLD CALLING SCAM - Hertfordshire County Council Trading Standards is warning of fraudulent cold calls being made to residents who have had spray foam loft insulation applied in the past. The fraudsters may tell you that there are issues with the original installing company, and they may frighten you by talking about fire risks associated with that insulation. They will tell you that you will be able to claim back the cost of the installation and that they will be able to remedy the works essentially for free.

None of those claims are true. What is true however, is that customer lists have fallen into the hands of scammers who are making these targeted sales calls. Once in a property, they produce a 'report' indicating safety problems and then arrange to carry out 'remedial' works themselves. Although they say the work is

free, they will need paying first, telling you to try to claim money back from your bank for the original defective works. In the absence of a genuine inspection report, this will not happen. If payment was made by cheque or bank transfer, there is no obligation for the bank to pay anything back in these circumstances anyway. It is a scam.

If you, or anyone you know, has had this work done in the past please be prepared for these calls and tell them that you are not interested. Please do not allow the trader to enter your home.

If you have had this work done and need advice, please contact Hertfordshire County Council Trading Standards via Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133. They have a small stock of call blocking devices that they can lend to victims of landline telephone frauds, please contact them to discuss if appropriate.

To report a fraud to the Police, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention to Sighle from the St Joseph's Choir who has kindly attended every Sunday to sing at Mass and also for funerals. Thank you very much for regularly sharing your time and talents, also to Maureen, who not only sings in the Choir, is a member of our gardening team and has been regularly helping to clean the Church after daily Mass. You're amazing! Thank you both very much Ladies!

To finish this week with the prayer to our Blessed Lady.

*"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death. 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

*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