

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel are scathing. Perhaps it was because the issue he is addressing is more than about a detail of ritual observance. Those who were leaders in Israel should have been helping the people to live according to the ways of God – so that they would be "a light to the nations", as the prophets had taught. Instead the Pharisees and scribes had lost sight of Israel's great destiny, and worked against it, in fact, by elaborating a system of self-serving regulations. They have no real concern for the ways of God, Jesus tells them, and he quotes against them the words of Isaiah: "This people honours me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me". Jesus shows himself a true interpreter of Israel's faith as he urges his followers to find integrity through the motives of the heart rather than in the observance of external rituals of purification. No wonder the people followed him so eagerly.

"Less lip and more heart" could be the moral of this Sunday's Gospel. It is also good advice for prayer. Real prayer life begins for many in recognising God in the heart, in the desire to be with God. Most people associate prayer with vocal prayers, or prayers that they learned at school. These are a perfectly good form of prayer but care must be taken that these vocal prayers don't get in the way of prayer! God gave us two ears but only one heart and one mouth to show us that we should listen twice as much as we speak. God knows what is in our hearts even before we start praying. He knows what we need before we even ask. And so, use your lips less, and your ears and heart more.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 27th August 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 8/27/2021 5:22 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 Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message on the Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Antonio. This can also be found on our website.

This week I've been a bit accident prone, having smashed not one, but two pairs of glasses, through various gardening incidents, which seems to be a rather dangerous activity. The first pair came to their demise, when I was dutifully holding down a small tree branch that my significant other was cutting high above my head, which I knew at the time was probably a bad idea. The branch suddenly snapped which made me launch forward, flinging the glasses perched casually on the top my head onto the grass, where my momentum propelled me to then stamp on them, and not in a dainty way! Pair number two met their fate through a faulty hose pipe the other evening when deciding to water some hanging baskets. Turning on the outside tap, the hose pipe half detached and split allowing a splaying vertical spurt of water to soak me from head to foot, knocking off another pair of glasses, again stupidly perched on my head, onto the corner of a concrete block splitting the frame and popping out the lens all in one go. The following evening, the lawnmower blew up, so I'm leaving the garden to do its own thing at the moment, as I sit typing in 'Jack Duckworth from Coronation Street mode', with my broken glasses completely held together with Sellotape...

REOPENING OF HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER FOR MASS - Next Sunday 5th September 2021, we are pleased to announce that Fr Antonio will celebrate Mass at Most Holy Redeemer at 9am. The Church has been closed for many months and so it will be wonderful to welcome everyone back. Father will then drive over to celebrate Mass at Holy Cross starting at 11.30am. At St Joseph's Mass at 9am and 11am will be celebrated by Mgr. Vlad Felzmann from the Canary Wharf Chaplaincy, who has visited before and who we warmly welcome back.

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.

CLEANING THE CHURCH AFTER MASS - If you are able to help to clean the Church by taking a cleaning wipe upon entering to just sanitise your own pew and kneeler after Mass or private prayer, that would be very helpful and much appreciated please, leaving our volunteers to sweep, wash the floor, sanitise everything else and 'fog' the Church each day or if you are in the position to donate disinfectant wipes or spray, that would be welcomed too. Thank you very much.

MASS SHEETS - Please feel free to take home with you a printed Mass sheet this week containing the Sunday readings which will be located in the wire basket at the back of the Church as you enter. On the reverse of the sheet is the Sunday message from Fr Antonio. For hygiene reasons, please ensure that if you take one, you do **not** put it back in the basket. Thank you for your understanding.

WE KEEP IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - all those students and teachers will be returning to school, college and universities in the coming weeks as well as parents and guardians who will be racing around to get everything ready.

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.

CONFIRMATION APPLICATIONS FOR 2022 NOW OPEN - If your date of birth is on or before 31 August 2007 (Year 10 and above) and you would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, Application forms are available from Father after every Mass starting from this weekend. All forms must be completed and returned to 3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford **by Wednesday 29th September 2021 at the latest**. The preparation sessions will take place between November 2021 and July 2022, with an introductory evening for parents and candidates to take place the week before half term. Further information will follow in due course. If you have any questions, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator Sophie Sullivan at bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING - There will be a catch-up meeting and training session for **ALL** Altar Servers in the whole parish and those who are interested in becoming a Server, this Sunday 29th August 2021 at 3pm at St Joseph and the English Martyrs Catholic Church with Fr Antonio.

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.

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. Please contact Fr Peter or Fr Antonio for any urgent matters on 01279 654063. The answerphone will be checked daily.

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 at Mass from Father from 1st September 2021** and should be returned by half term - Friday 22nd October 2021. As in previous years, parents/ guardians will be asked to collect and sign for a form for their child only. If you have any questions, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator Sophie Sullivan at bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk

REMINDER NOTIFICATION OF WORKS - The work on the new electricity cables on the four-way junction of Bridge street, Market Street, High Street and North Street starts this Saturday 28th August from 1800 hours to Tuesday 31st August 2021 at 0500 hours. From Wednesday 1st September a full road closure will take place on Bridge Street with a diversion put in place.

REMINDER 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, also because of the planned roadworks.

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

THE MARCH FOR LIFE- will take place on Saturday 4th September 2021. A number of indoor events for children, teens and adults will take place from 10am until 1pm in The Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW. The March to Parliament Square, will start outside The Emmanuel Centre at 1.30pm. There will be a number of Pro-Life speakers at Parliament Square, including Bishop John Keenan who will travel all the way from Scotland to attend this very important event. For more details see: www.MarchForLife.co.uk

SEPTEMBER - is World Alzheimer's Month

10th - World Suicide Prevention Day - <https://www.iasp.info>

24th - Macmillan Coffee Morning <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/>

CAFOD - is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

ST MICHAELS CHURCH - are holding a Heritage Open Days event at St. Michael's in partnership with Bishop's Stortford Museum on Saturday 11th September between 2pm - 4pm and would particularly like to welcome

members of other churches in Stortford. We have a self-guided tour to show the historical items and features of the church. There will also be talks in the ringing chamber about the history of the bells but due to limited space, places for this need to be booked by visiting www.southmillarts.co.uk or telephoning 01279 710200

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE? – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The programme is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille', or to register for the programme commencing with a 'Virtual weekend on 21st– 24th October 2021 Call or text +44788 7296983/+44 797 3380443 Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

ST ANDREWS 800th ANNIVERSARY -St Andrew's Church is celebrating its 800th anniversary on Saturday 18 September 2021 from 2pm

Please join us for a community afternoon tea, followed by a tree-planting and a joint Anglican and Catholic service of celebration led by the Bishop of London. All are welcome.

To reserve your place, please email standrews800@gmail.com (preferred). For those without email, please telephone 01279 842339 To help with our catering numbers, advance notice is requested. Cost £4 each of £10 per family.

Full details provided on registration.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention to Phil and John from Most Holy Redeemer who kindly gave their time and energy to help finish clearing the grounds at the Church which had become rather overgrown. It is now looking so much better. Thank you very much indeed gentlemen and to everyone who has helped get the Church ready for Mass next weekend.

I am now off on my holiday and will be back on Monday 13th September, all being well.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Peter back refreshed from his break on Bank holiday Monday 30th August when the Mass at St Joseph's will start at 10am instead of 9.30am.

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
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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