

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

The actions of Jesus, touching ears and mouth may be repeated in baptism. The priest says these words to the baby: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

So as Christians, we should ask ourselves questions regarding our power of speech and hearing. Are my ears open to God's word, reading it, listening to it, pondering it in the heart? Do I listen to what others say? Do I hear the pleas of those in need? Do I heed the opinions or advice of others?

Then we reflect on the words that come out of our mouths. Are my words worthy of a baptised Catholic? A poisoned tongue spits out cynicism, anger, deceit, hurt, character assassination, destructiveness, and so on. Am I guilty of the sort of double standard described by James in this Sunday's second reading? Does the same tongue that receives the Body of Christ in the Eucharist attack the members of His mystical body?

The words of the true Christian bring love, peace, happiness, affirmation, consolation, forgiveness, good advice, laughter, etc. Do we choose to use speech for blasphemy, profanity or obscenity, or do we use it to give thanks, praise and prayer?

We tend to take our ears and mouth for granted, but they are powerful organs. With them, we can hurt or we can help. The choice is ours.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*

## Parish Note Friday 3rd September 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Antonio Pineda <antoniopineda@rcdow.org.uk>

Fri 9/3/2021 7:55 AM

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

 1 attachments (27 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message on the Twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Antonio . This can also be found on our website. We welcome this week Mgr. Vlad Felzmann who joins us to celebrate Mass at St Josephs at 9am and 11am.

This message has been prepared using the powers of technology with up-to-date editions courtesy of Fr Antonio as I explore the countryside and hopefully the seaside on my holiday. Last week, I attended an evening Solemn Sung Mass for the Performing Arts at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden. It was the feast day of St Genesius, the patron saint of actors, dancers, singers and comedians and one of special importance for one of my family members who works in the industry and chose St Genesius as their confirmation saint. The Church, if you have never visited before, is in the heart of theatreland and is absolutely beautiful. The Performing Arts sector was affected greatly by the pandemic and many who work in the entertainment industry, both on stage and off stage have found themselves in great difficulties as theatres, film studios and such venues closed. As the restrictions are lifted, a new normality is slowly starting to emerge and once again supported. For my birthday, I have been treated to a ticket to see the musical 'Singing in the Rain', at the Sadlers Wells Theatre which I last saw on stage about twelve years ago, having watched the film countless times, so we will probably drop back into Corpus Christi again to light a candle and say a prayer on the way and may be visit the nice rustic pizza restaurant located opposite too...

**REOPENING OF HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER FOR MASS** - This 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.

**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](mailto:bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)

**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.

**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. For any urgent matters please contact Fr Peter or Fr Antonio on 01279 654063. The answer phone message will be checked daily.

**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 are available now from Father every day after Mass** and should be returned by half term - Friday 22nd October 2021. Please only collect a form for your child.

**SEPTEMBER** - is World Alzheimer's Month

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

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

**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](http://www.stortfordkickstart.org.uk) Tel; 01279 501745

**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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

**ST MICHAELS CHURCH** - are holding a Heritage Open Days event at St. Michaels 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](http://www.southmillarts.co.uk) or telephoning 01279 710200

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - Thank you to everyone who has assisted in helping to prepare Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross, for when we reopen this weekend and who will be looking after and welcoming Fr Antonio and Mgr. Vlad.

To finish this week, a prayer to St Genesius

I hope that you have a very happy and healthy week

Best wishes  
Debbie

**Parish Administrator**

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

**Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford**