

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I wonder how often we rush to a conclusion and, as a result, stop someone from doing something that actually would have been much better done? It is an interesting question and we find it this weekend in two of our Sunday readings. It is, of course, part of our presumption that we are sometimes tempted to think we know better. Dear Lord, what damage we can find ourselves doing to the work of the Holy Spirit.

God doesn't want to stifle our dreams but, rather, wants to nurture us and help us to dream the dreams that he gave us when he created each of us. How wonderful it is to help people to fulfil their dreams and believe in themselves and know that God is with them.

There is a wonderful little meditation with God speaking personally to each of us. Someone gave it to me years ago and I commend it to you:

I know you. I created you. I am creating you.
I have loved you from your mother's womb. You
have fled - as you now know - from my love. But
I love you nevertheless and not-the-less and,
however far you flee, it is I who sustain your very
power of fleeing, and I will never finally let you go.
I accept you as you are. You are forgiven. I know
all your sufferings. I have always known them.
For beyond your understanding, when you suffer,
I suffer. I also know all of the little tricks by which
you try to hide the ugliness you have made of your
life from yourself and others. But you are beautiful.
You are beautiful more deeply within than you can
see. You are beautiful because you yourself, in
the unique one that only you are, reflect already
something of the beauty of my holiness in a way
which shall never end. You are beautiful also
because I, and I alone, see the beauty you shall
become. Through the transforming power of my
love you shall become perfectly beautiful. You
shall become perfectly beautiful in a uniquely
irreplaceable way, which neither you nor I will
work out alone. For we shall work it out together.

CHARLES K. ROBINSON

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 24th September 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 9/24/2021 3:52 PM

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

 2 attachments (392 KB)

Transport Administrator - Job Description - Sept 2021.pdf; The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

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

Today, we celebrate the shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Walsingham, first established by noblewoman Richeldis de Faverches in 1061 on the instruction of the Virgin Mary. The Lady Richeldis was a holy woman with a great love of the Mother of God. She asked Our Lady for a way to honour her, and it was from this desire in her heart that the events of Walsingham unfolded. She was a woman of faith, she pondered, meditated and prayed. In answer to her prayer, the Virgin Mary led her in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the House of the Annunciation where the Angel greeted Mary, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation. This Holy House was built, and a religious community took charge of the foundation. Although we have very little historical material from this period, we know that with papal approval the Augustinian Canons built a Priory (c 1150). Walsingham became one of the greatest Shrines in Medieval Christendom.

Tomorrow at Westminster Cathedral, there will be a Divine Mercy day of prayer from 12.30pm - 4.30pm to which everyone is welcome..

FR ANTONIO will be away from the parish next week but will return on 2nd October 2021

NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER AT 9.30am - Regrettably, there will be NO MASS celebrated on Wednesday 29th September 2021 at 9.30am at St Joseph's. Mass will resume on Thursday 30th September as usual.

RETURN OF THE SUNDAY 6PM MASS - We are pleased to announce that as from next Sunday 3rd October, there will be a 6pm Mass celebrated once again at St Joseph's.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT – This weekend 25/26th September will be the 2nd count of the number of people attending Mass as part of our Annual Mass count for the Diocese. This continues for 4 consecutive weekends ending on Sunday 10th October

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.

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 Peter. 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.

A REMINDER THAT APPLICATIONS FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2021-2022 ARE SOON TO CLOSE! - If your date of birth is on or before 31st August 2007 (year 10 or above), and you would like to be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, application forms are still available to collect from Father Peter or Fr Antonio after every weekend Mass. All forms should be completed and returned to 3 Windhill, by **Wednesday 29th September** at the latest. This also applies for anyone who has already emailed their expression of interest! For any queries, please contact Sophie Sullivan, our Catechetical Coordinator.

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.

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

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

CATHOLIC & LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER OR QUESTIONING? SEEKING SUPPORT? -LGBT+ Catholics Westminster, the LGBT+ Catholic Chaplaincy of the Diocese of Westminster, and Quest, a national organisation for LGBT+ Catholics, both give pastoral support and points of contact for people with queries about LGBT+ issues and their faith. www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org www.questlgbti.uk Mass welcoming LGBT+ Catholics, parents, families and friends are held on 2nd & 4th Sundays 17.30 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 3AH

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOOLS - Christian organisations Youthscape and Pais are leading a national day of prayer on Tuesday 28th September, to encourage all Christian churches to pray for our local schools. With this in mind, Sophie Sullivan will be leading a prayer walk on the morning of Tues 28th. Starting at St Joseph's Church, we will walk up to St Mary's and St Joseph's, before returning to the church to commit other schools in our locality to prayer. We should be finished by 11.30am at the latest. Anyone wishing to join should meet, after Mass, outside the main door of the church at 10.15am

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES -This year, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), celebrated on Sunday 26th September, has as its theme 'Towards an ever wider "we"'. This day is an opportunity for the Church to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The

Pope's message for WDMR and additional resources are available at <https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrantsrefugees/>. Bishop Paul McAleenan will celebrate the annual WDMR Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 5.30pm on that Sunday. Our Ethnic Chaplaincies have been invited to participate. All are most welcome to the Mass, either in person or via the Cathedral livestream at <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk>

THE 20th ANNUAL DIVINE MERCY/ OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM DAY OF PRAYER - takes place in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 25th September 2021 Starts with 12.30pm Mass, led by Fr. Slawomir Witon, Cathedral Administrator, Fr. Derek Hyett, Parish Priests of Our Lady & St. Joseph, Kingsland & Fr. Vincent Mbu'i, Cathedral Chaplain. The afternoon has a varied devotional programme of Rosary, Lectio Divina, Adoration, Eucharistic Healing Service and a Talk on the Message of Divine Mercy. Full details from Antonia - antonia@walsingham.org.uk

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SCHOOL - School Office Administrator Vacancy. We have a vacancy in our School Office for an Office Administrator. If you are interested in applying for this position, please follow the link [School Office Administrator](#) to access further details and a school application form. Visits and an informal chat with our Headteacher, Mrs Napier are warmly welcome, please call 01992 463549 to arrange.

WORK FOR RIGHT TO LIFE UK - Are you looking to leave a corporate career and instead use your skills and energy to make a significant positive difference to this world? Right To Life UK are currently hiring for a number of positions across media, public affairs, digital and operations. In particular, they are looking to urgently fill positions in their Public Affairs team, to ensure that they have the right team in place ahead of their opposition making further attempts to introduce radical changes to abortion and assisted suicide legislation. They are looking for highly skilled, hard-working, professional individuals to join them. If this is of interest to you or if you know of anyone that would be suitable for one of the positions, please visit the link below to view the roles they are looking to hire for and learn how to apply.
www.righttolife.org.uk/jobs/

FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE- The Ascent is starting this October 2021! The ASCENT is a three-year discipleship process for anyone in years 10, 11 or 12 who feels ready to go to the next level in their faith journey. Including weekends away, mentoring and small groups, this process is just what you might be looking for to climb to greater heights in your faith! For more info, do check our our web post: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/09/16/calling-young-adults-the-ascent/>

BISHOP'S STORTFORD ACROSS TRIP TO LOURDES 2022- 6-15 October 2022

We have just agreed a date for our parish Across trip to Lourdes next year subject to all the usual caveats at this time! We are planning to go on 6-15 October 2022.

Across take those, who wouldn't otherwise be able, to take a trip on a very special pilgrimage to Lourdes. Our trip is not like any other pilgrimage, it is a holiday with Our Lady.

We manage to uniquely combine daily celebration of Mass in a variety of churches in and around the Domaine, a visit to the baths and opportunities for prayer with day trips, entertainment, great food and making genuine friendships.

If you are interested or keen to travel with us, either as a helper, or a VIP then put the date in the diary and contact me, John Wright on 07739789169 or email: johncharles.wright70@gmail.com

Pricing will be confirmed from Across soon. We are looking forward to planning our trip and fundraising over the next few months as well as finding VIPs who will (as those who have already travelled with us know) have a fabulous holiday with Our Lady!

VACANCY WITH ACROSS FOR A PART TIME TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATOR - Across are still looking for a part time Transport administrator, 12 hours a week, 9.30am - 1.30pm Tues, Wed & Friday, £21, 450 pro rata. Please see the advert attached and contact Lisa O Connor via email lisa@across.org.uk for more information.

THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING? - Caritas Westminster is running a free, online 'Introduction to Volunteering' event on 21 September 2021, 10 – 11:30 am. From finding a suitable role to your first day, we will cover all you need to know to get started. For more information and to register, please visit www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/events or email cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

Parishioners who are interested in welcoming and supporting refugees from Afghanistan, can sign up on <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-to-support-afghan-refugees.php>

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - is on Friday 1st October. Please consider donating online or take an envelope from the back of the Church to help those poorest people in the world. Thank you

APF BOXES AT MOST HOLY REDEEMER - Len at MHR would like to collect the APF boxes from those parishioners who attend Most Holy Redeemer this Sunday please if you could kindly bring them with you for. Thank you.

UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE - Events taking place in Bishop's Stortford to mark the UK's hosting of the 26th UN Climate Conference in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November 2021 include:

A free screening of the film 'Tomorrow' on **Saturday 9th October at 2:30pm at South Mill Arts Centre**. The film challenges us to think about the state of our planet whilst offering a hopeful vision of what's possible when people come together to act on what matters to them. It is free and open to all.

After the film there will be the opportunity to chat and discuss the film and we will provide information about the subsequent **Community Climate Gathering on the weekend of 6/7 November**. This community meeting, spread over two days and timed to coincide with COP26, will bring together local people to answer the question: 'what can we do together, starting now, to improve our environment and fight climate change?'

Spaces at the events will be limited. Tickets for the film can be reserved on the South Mill Arts website www.southmillarts.co.uk and you can sign up for the Gathering at www.communityclimategathering.org.

HOLY TRINITY NIGHT SHELTER OPEN DAYS - Come along on Saturday 25 September from 10am to 4pm. See what we've been doing during lockdown and what we will be doing over the winter months! Opportunities to volunteer: if you have a couple of hours spare and feel you can make a difference in someone's journey, come along to either of these sessions or to our induction session on Saturday 9 October at 11am and Sunday 17 October at 2pm.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Bertie and Gillian Napier who celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary this weekend. We extend our love, best wishes and prayers to you both.

ST ANDREWS 800th ANNIVERSARY - Huge thanks to those who came along to celebrate the belated 800th anniversary of St Andrew's Church in Much Hadham.

Since 1984, the church has been shared by the village's Anglican and Roman Catholic congregations. A community afternoon tea was followed by the planting of a tree and then a service of thanksgiving, presided over by The Rt Hon & Rt Revd Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and the Rt Revd Paul McAleenan, and co-celebrated with Revd Dr Stephen Bate and Fr Antonio. As well as the visible helpers, parking cars, and serving tea and cake etc, there were a great many volunteers behind the scenes to whom thanks are owed. Their jobs were many: - arranging flowers, cleaning and tidying, baking cakes, moving tables and gazebos and plenty of fetching and carrying.

With beautiful music from the joint choirs as well as the St Andrew's school choir and prayers for all the community, it was joyful to see the church so beautifully decorated and full of people.

In the words of one attendee "while the celebration may have been a year late it lacked nothing in the impact that it made."

Please see this week's Bishop's Stortford Independent for more details and photos.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week BIG thanks to Len Wood from Most Holy Redeemer our much loved Sacristan, who quietly, faithfully and diligently appeared for the reopening of our Church to calmly continue his duty. It was wonderful to have you back Len. Grateful thanks also to Susie Croft who after 20+ years of dedicated, calm and faithful service as an Altar Server at St Joseph's has finally decided to hang up her Alb, but will still be involved in ministry. Thank you both very much indeed for everything that you have both done and still continue to do.

To finish this week..

PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Lord God, in the mystery of the Incarnation, Mary conceived your Son in her heart before she conceived him in her womb. As we, your pilgrim people, rejoice in her patronage, grant that we also may welcome him into our hearts, and so, like her, be made a holy house fit for his eternal dwelling. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

*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

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