
Sunday Message on the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Peter

I spoke at the Masses I celebrated last Sunday about the Holy Father's desire for the whole Church around the world to come together in a Synodal process. This Sunday we will hear a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Vincent telling us more about this.

It is an exciting initiative of Pope Francis and I invite you all to have the opportunity to read a little more about it.

There are two web addresses that I recommend to you:

From the Vatican Synod Office: www.synod.va/en.html

And on our own Diocesan website: www.rcdow.org.uk/synod

We will all get to hear a lot more about this in the next few weeks and there will be a new section on our parish website that will tell us more. So, a little homework if you will all be so kind... have a look at the two websites above and start learning more.

With best wishes and prayers,

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 1st October 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 10/1/2021 4:49 PM

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

 2 attachments (181 KB)

211003 Pastoral Letter - Synodal pathway.pdf; Sunday Message on the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Peter.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message on the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time from Fr Peter which can be found on our website. Also attached to this email is a Pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

This week, the subject of 'money laundering' came in the topic of conversation.. not in the illegal sense of the word, but a steam iron or press would definitely have come in quite handy when trying to do the parish banking in the now 'counter service free' bank. Bank notes and cheques can be paid in to one of the automated machines in the foyer, but have to be perfectly flat, without tears, curled edges or wrinkles for the machine to recognise and accept them. If not, they get ejected! Therefore, we found ourselves competing in a reverse origami challenge, trying to coax, plead with, massage, tweak and flatten a quantity of wayward polymer notes, some of whom completely refused to comply, which was rather 'character building' to say the least! However, I'm not quite sure that is what the rest of the patient queue might have thought..

WELCOME BACK to FR ANTONIO who returns this week from a short break.

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

ANNUAL MASS COUNT – This weekend 2nd/ 3rd October will be the 3rd 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

REQUIEM MASS - On Wednesday 6th October 2021 at St Joseph's, there will be a Requiem Mass at 10am for Thomas Cuff RIP instead of the daily 9.30am Mass. Please keep Tom's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

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.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our current First Holy Communion Children who will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this coming week.

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

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 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 Domane, 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. Contact Lisa O Connor via email lisa@across.org.uk for more information.

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.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES - The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) provides parish leaders with knowledge and understanding of theology and the Catholic faith. You can learn the course in person, by distance learning or online - details below:

Centres (in person learning)

<http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php/course-centres>

Life-Light Home Study Courses (distance learning)

info@studylifelight.com

01844 351 514

CCRS Online (online learning)

ccrsonline@hope.ac.uk

0151 291 3055

WORKING TO END MODERN SLAVERY - St James Thorley MU invite you to a talk by our Diocesan President, Kim Wilkinson - Mothers' Union and the Clewer Initiative: working to end modern slavery by 2030 Monday 11th October Welcome refreshments at 7.00pm St Barnabas Centre, Church Lane, Thorley, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4BE. Please contact: adminasst@stjamesthorley.church or phone 01279 506753 to let us know you are coming.

APPEAL FROM THE FOOD BANK - We anticipate that demand, which is already high, will increase as we approach the Autumn and Winter due to a combination of factors including the end of the furlough scheme and the Universal Credit uplift, the higher cost of food and the increase in gas and electricity prices. Unfortunately, this is coming at a time when for a variety of reasons our stocks of food are already low (the Storehouse we share with Harlow Foodbank has never been as depleted). So, the more food items that churches can donate the better! We are also hoping to recruit more volunteers to cope with the likely increased demand - particularly people who could volunteer regularly. If anyone is interested, please could you email Hana Hainsby (Food Bank Coordinator) at: Hana.hainsby@bishopsstortfordfoodbank.com. Items most in demand include soup, pasta, rice, noodles, cereals, tinned foods, toiletries, jam, biscuits etc.

ST LAWRENCE'S SCHOOL ZAMBIA - A few months ago, we received news that Sr. Angela, Headteacher of St. Lawrence's Community School in Zambia was being moved to another part of the country. This means that the personal contact with the school we are supporting is no longer there. It seemed an appropriate time, therefore, to close this charity. Most Holy Redeemer has supported the St. Lawrence's School community for the past 20 years as part of the Millennium Project chosen by our congregation, which also included the provision of new stained-glass windows for our little church.

Over this period, our parishioners have seen the building of a generator, new toilets, a shower block, the provision of a well and a water tank, plus funding for books and classrooms for St. Lawrence's School.

Most Holy Redeemer is very grateful for all of the very generous support you have given over the past twenty years.

Our Knitting Group at MHR, however, will keep knitting to support Zambia and other poor regions around the world which are assisted through the charitable works of The Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, also known as the "Chigwell Nuns".

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week BIG thanks to Pip (from our Finance team and Choir) and her husband Hensley for their time, dedication, support, friendship and enormous patience providing help (and cookies!) within the parish this week. Thank you both very much indeed!

To finish this week.. the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, the first word of the original Latin, meaning, 'We stand before You, Holy Spirit,' which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, and is attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever 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

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Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>

Follow our Live streaming on www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford

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