

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Feast of All Saints

A number of people have mentioned to me that they had read the short "Point of View" piece that I wrote for the local newspaper this week about 'listening'. One parishioner particularly commented that he had read it and it had a particular poignancy for him since his wife was in a care home with dementia and he had learnt through his frequent visits to her how important listening was – please do remember him and his wife in your prayers this week.

My reason for writing the piece was the calling of the Synod by Pope Francis and his desire that we listen attentively to the presence of the Holy Spirit. At all our Masses this weekend we will be handing out the Synod Prayer Card which has a prayer on it that has been used for many centuries and is thought to have been written by St Isidore of Seville around the year 600AD. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with this prayer. I do ask you to take your copy home and particularly pray this prayer during the month of November when in our Parish we will have the chance of coming together in small groups to be listened to.

I read somewhere this week, "These gatherings are not meant to be debates but prayerful Spirit-guided sharing of our lived experiences that will lead to our offering solutions to the many issues facing the Church today. These are meant to be deep listening sessions where we are journeying together, walking the path that God is calling the Church to undertake for the third millennium." I thought that was very well put. I also read another piece that struck me deeply: *"The Spirit continues to guide us in our translating the Good News into different contexts, so that the words of Jesus continue to resound in the hearts of men and women in every age"*.

That last writer noted that they had always like a quote from the composer Gustav Mahler, where he said: *"...tradition is not the repository of ashes but the preservation of fire."* Now, there is something to think about as we pray this week!!

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 29 October 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Feast of All Saints

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

Fri 10/29/2021 2:10 PM

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

 1 attachments (13 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Feast of All Saints.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message on the feast of All Saints from Fr Peter which can be found on our website.

Whilst tidying the Church late into the afternoon this week just before closing, my eyes were drawn to something flying through the main doors of St Joseph's. At first, from a distance away and in the fading light it looked like a very small bird, but as I approached it, I realised that actually it was a very large, beautiful butterfly which was fluttering near to the Repository. It was quite spectacular to see as it had negotiated the chicane of both outer and inner doors and seemed to be inspecting the goods on display. It then flew high up to the very top of the clerestory windows and flittered around for a good few minutes before it gently made its way back down to the shelves containing the hymns books. It then left as quickly and quietly as it had entered out of the side door nearest to number 3. I think that it was a Red Admiral, which is apparently also known as 'Vanessa Atalanta' and was first described by the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus in his 1758 10th edition of Systema Naturae. There is a lovely quote that I found which says that 'Butterflies are God's confetti, thrown upon the earth in celebration of his love' and one other 'Love is like a butterfly, it goes where it pleases and it pleases wherever it goes' ...

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - the family and friends of Tony Allen RIP who sadly died on Wednesday. Tony was well known and a very good friend to many in the parish. I was told by a fellow parishioner that Tony kindly provided the two heavy planters at the front of St Joseph's Church some years ago where we continue to enjoy the array of blooms planted throughout the seasons by Marie.
Eternal rest grant unto Tony O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

THE SYNOD 2023 - Please visit our website where Fr Antonio has created a special page to keep you updated about the Synod 2023

<https://rcstortford.org.uk/synod2023/>. This weekend we shall also be distributing special Synod prayer cards which we hope you will like to pray during the month of November.

SICK AND RETIRED PRIEST'S COLLECTION - The Sick & Retired Priests' collection is next week. The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. By supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can help cover essential costs and give them peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met.

This is our chance to say thank you to our sick and retired priests who have given so much. You will find a donation envelope at the back of the church today. Please take one home, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations
The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

HELP THE SVP - The SVP are distributing **11,500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.70 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code **60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS - November is the month of Holy Souls. We will still have a Parish Remembrance book at St Joseph's this year; however, we will also create a page on our website also. If you would like the names of your deceased relatives added, please do email your list of names to bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk or alternatively drop a note containing the names of your loved ones through the door of number 3 Windhill. Thank you.

BLESSING OF GRAVES - On Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 10.30am Fr Peter and Fr Antonio will attend Bishop's Stortford cemetery. Please meet them at the entrance if you would like the graves of your loved ones to be blessed. At 11.30am Fr Peter will attend St Thomas' cemetery in Perry Green to also bless the graves there.

HAND- GEL - Please do continue to sanitise your hands with hand gel as you enter the Church.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED SEATING - If you sit in the 'socially distanced ' seating side of the left-hand side of the Church, we thank you for continuing to wear a face mask.

CHURCH CLEANING - Thank you to our regular hardworking team of volunteers who help to clean the Church every day. The weekend Masses are now getting busier and with the inclement weather there is quite a lot of dirt, leaves etc being brought in on shoes. If you are able to help us by staying behind after Mass just for a few minutes to push a broom in between the pews and along the aisles, commandeer a mop, the fogger or any assistance that you could give to share the tasks, would be much appreciated. Thank you. We do have a daily competition to see who can amass the most dirt swept up on each side of the church(!), so if you are feeling competitive, do join us!

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 10th and Monday 17th January 2022 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.

AUTUMN CRAFT FAYRE - Saturday 13 November 2021 11am - 3.30pm at the St Barnabas Centre, organised by the Friends of St James' Church.

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!

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 rise 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.

CAFOD - A message from CAFOD: Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. www.cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis. Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November. There are prayer cards at the back of church; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see www.cafod.org.uk/COP26

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.

TO ALL OUR YOUNG ADULTS — AGED 18-35- The Diocese of Westminster's Youth Ministry Team would love to take this opportunity to invite you to an evening of extremely important and necessary conversation, leading up to the Synod of Bishops in 2023. On the 2 of November at 6.30 pm, young adults from all over the diocese will gather at the Archbishop's House — where Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be present, to guide us in a time of reflection, prayer and conversation — and we would LOVE for you to join us! We are trying to gather together as many young people as we can, from all different backgrounds and denominations so that we can get a really great reflection on the Church. If you have any friends or family who are not currently church goers but would love to join the conversation, we really encourage you to get them to join us too!

Here is the link to sign up and take part: <https://form.jotform.com/212902469779368> For more information, see the Youth Ministry website. If you would have any questions whatsoever, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing youth@rcdow.org.uk.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY - is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

RESPONSE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES - Caritas Westminster is co-ordinating the diocese's response to refugees newly arrived from Afghanistan. In particular they are looking for :

Anyone who can help find accommodation, including homes for large families

Speakers of Pashtu, Dari or Farsi who could help with interpretations

Teachers of English (ESOL)

Co-ordinated groups of volunteers who can welcome and befriend Afghans arriving in your area.

The response will need to be well co-ordinated, and you will need to work with your local authority. Please contact Caritas Westminster Volunteer Service if you or the organisation you are involved in might be able to

help go to <https://www.caritasvs.org.uk/volunteer-to-support-afghan-refugees.php> or email cvs@rcdow.org.uk

Gift aid forms have been prepared for those who would like to make a monetary donation which can be found at the back of the Church.

JUSTICE & PEACE NEWS - On Sunday the United Nations Climate Conference begins in Glasgow - COP26. As the host country, the UK has a very particular responsibility to ensure that the negotiations are a success. As Catholics we are invited to follow all the developments and advocate for strong actions, but most especially we are called to pray. There are many opportunities to do this listed in this month's Diary Dates. Many are online but two are in person in London. We invite you most especially to come along and join us for these:

1) 1st November, 6pm – Candle-lit Vigil and Procession to pray for successful climate negotiations at COP26. From Westminster Cathedral to Farm Street Church via Buckingham Palace
<https://londonjesuitcentre.org/cop-26-candle-lit-procession>

2) 6th November, 11am – Rally for the Climate with many other groups from civic society. Meet with CAFOD and Westminster Justice & Peace at St Mary Moorfields Church
<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/COP26-Day-of-Action-2021>

Below is a link to all the **Key Climate Dates** on the Justice & Peace website:

<https://westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/key-climate-dates-in-2021/>

WRITE TO YOUR MP REGARDING THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL - Caritas Westminster and the Jesuit Refugee Service are urging Catholics to write to their MPs about the Nationality and Borders Bill. The proposals in this Bill are unfair, unjust and will not work. They also do nothing to address the root causes of forced migration and trafficking. Find out more and how to respond here: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/nationality-and-borders-bill-caritas-westminster-response-1232.php>

INVIGILATORS - St Mary's Catholic School are seeking to add to their existing team of invigilators. Examinations (internal and external) take place throughout the academic year, including a mock examination season in December, but the main external examination season is during May and June. To apply please click on the link below and complete the application forms, returning them to recruitment@stmarys.net. The closing date 30 October 2021.

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/exam-invigilators-casual-st-mary-s-catholic-school-bishop-s-stortford-herts-pounds-9-95-p-h-hertfordshire-cm23-2nq-1495811>

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR - A vacancy for Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Closing date for applications: 1st November 2021. Please see www.stmarys.net for more information.

RCIA – A Journey in Faith - Autumn seems to draw the natural world towards lifelessness when in fact nature is working quietly behind the scenes on the new life slowly moving towards the increasing light of spring. So, it is in St Joseph's just now as we welcome among us several interesting people who are enquiring into a life of faith in the Catholic Church. As the parish, we are once more invited to be alongside our enquirers, embarking together in prayer on this journey in faith. The group asks to be remembered in your prayers that we may each be reminded of where God is and has always been, in our lives as we too move towards the increasing light of Christ, light of the world.

ADMISSION TO ST JOSEPHS ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL RECEPTION - The application process for admission to **Reception Class** at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School for children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 will open on 1st November 2021 and close on 15th January 2022.

School application forms will be available on St. Joseph's School website from 1st November. They must be completed with the necessary documentation and returned to the school by 15th January 2022.

In addition to the school forms, you **MUST** complete the online Hertfordshire County Council application form (or your local authority if not Hertfordshire) - see www.hertsdirect.org
For more information, please see the school website: www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE - Applicants for St Joseph's School for **RECEPTION** places in 2022 should collect a white 'embossed' application form for a certificate from No 3 Windhill, the Sacristy after Mass or the Parish Office in person. Once completed it should then be posted through the letter box of No 3 Windhill marked for Fr Antonio's attention **with a stamped addressed envelope, please**. The Certificate will then be posted to you. The School deadline is 15/1/2022.

CHRISTIAN AID SECRETARY VACANCY- The Bishop's Stortford Christian Aid Committee is seeking a secretary. We have just three committee meetings a year at which you would need to take minutes/notes and you would be our contact with Head Office, ordering the envelopes, etc, for the house-to-house collection each year. This is a voluntary position, which the current incumbent describes as "not a big-time commitment but a very worthy cause". If you are interested, please telephone Karen to discuss on 07951 522573.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL are looking to appoint an Office Administrator. If you are interested, or know of anyone who would be interested, please visit this link for further details and contact information: https://www.teachinherts.com/find-a-job/view/school-office-administrator_67789.htm

ST ELIZABETH'S ARE RECRUITING - please visit the centre web site for news of job vacancies - <https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk/working-with-us/current-vacancies/>

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - Thank you to Danny Doyle for his hard work and loyal commitment to service on the Parish Finance Committee which has been much appreciated over the years. Big thanks also to Gregory and Kamilla, two of our younger parishioners, on their half term break who helped to sweep the church this week after Mass and to Ann and Yvonne for tending to the Repository in preparation for the arrival of the Christmas stock.

DON'T FORGET - that the clocks go back one hour at 2am this Sunday 31st October 2021, so you have one extra hour to use wisely!

Today is the Feast day of the Blessed Martyrs of Douai who were a group of men who trained for the priesthood at Douai College during the English Reformation and were executed on their return to England for preaching the Catholic faith. Operating as a Roman Catholic priest during the Protestant Reformation was considered high treason, with a punishment of being hanged, drawn and quartered. In total, 158 members of Douai College were martyred between the years 1577 and 1680, including St Robert Southwell and St Edmund Campion.

*Excite in us, O Lord, that Spirit which Thy blessed Martyrs of Douai obeyed,
that we, filled with the same Spirit may ourselves endeavour to love what they cherished,
and to practice what they taught..*

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

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

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

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