

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

This Sunday's readings give us much food for thought.

Firstly, on self-sacrifice. Jesus nears the end of his journey. He has reached Jerusalem where He, the Suffering Servant of God, will lay down His life for sinners. The poor widow in the Gospel who gives all she has to live on is an example to the disciples of how to follow His way of self-sacrifice. In the First Reading, another widow shares her what little food she had and her last drop of oil with God's prophet. She discovered that God will not be outdone in generosity. His shovel was bigger than hers. And look at what happened. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied! This should encourage us to ask ourselves, "Do I trust in God sufficiently to share my last ounce in his name?"

We might think it is easier for wealthy people because they always have spare to give. But where does necessity end and surplus begin? Definitions of need are relative to our expectations. The luxuries of one generation are the necessities of the next. It is not too early to call a limit on Christmas spending. Instead of racking your brain to find a suitable present for somebody who already has more than enough, why not donate to a charity and send your friend a certificate acknowledging the donation?

And secondly, there is food for thought on salvation. The Second Reading offers a theme that is so relevant for November. Jesus is our hope of eternal life, having entered heaven to plead on our behalf. At Mass we celebrate His victory over sin and death. He accepts our repentance and takes away our sins. He will reward with salvation those who are ready for His coming.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*

## Parish Note Friday 5 November 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 11/5/2021 4:02 PM

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

 3 attachments (423 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx; SYNOD StUBS flyer.pdf; ShareYourThoughts.pdf;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message on the thirty second Sunday in Ordinary time from Fr Antonio which can be found on our website.

I resisted a huge temptation on Wednesday.. it wasn't anything to do with biscuits, cake or chocolate ( I am far too weak for that!). The Town Council had spent the morning raking, blowing and gathering golden, scrunchy fallen leaves from the Monastery gardens which had been amassed into an absolutely enormous pile, ready to be picked up and taken away. For one brief moment, and reminiscing back a good fifty years, to when we owned a rather scatty spaniel called Scamp who loved to excitedly race around snuffling through snow or leaves, I had the overwhelming, sudden, childish urge to run at full pelt and jump into them. I mimed the proposed action in slow motion to a bystander who I am certain was thinking exactly the same tempting thought as they were quickly full of encouragement for my crazy notion. Remembering however that I was wearing a white coat, and couldn't see what else lurked in the bottom of the now slightly, soggy, deep brownish pile whilst also considering the potential consequences of my proposed actions, reluctantly decided against it. But there's always tomorrow...

### **SYNOD 2023: The time has come to participate!**

#### **What is it?**

The synod is in response to Pope Francis' call for us to become a "synodal Church"; in other words, a Church which journeys together. A synod is a council of the Church normally convened for us to think and pray together on an issue of doctrine, administration or application. According to the synod handbook, this particular synod is "an opportunity for the entire people of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal church in the long-term". In the first stage, we are called to reflect together as a parish on how to renew our sense of mission in the light of eighteen months' experience of pandemic.

For more information on the synod, there is a special page on our website:

<https://rcstortford.org.uk/synod2023/>

#### **How do I participate?**

Everyone is encouraged to participate, whether you are a regular church-goer nor not, a Christian or of no faith at all. There are two ways of participating:

**1. Attend our Listening Meetings.** These are sessions lasting 50-60 minutes, to be held in the Parish Centre. A list of Listening Meetings will be published on the main synod page <https://rcstortford.org.uk/synod2023/> and on the Events page <https://rcstortford.org.uk/events/>. You need to book to attend any of the sessions, either online on the Events page or by calling the Parish Office. A leaflet outlining the questions you might want to think about in preparation for the meetings is available in church from this weekend, and it's also attached in this email.



**2. Complete the questionnaire.** If you are not able to attend the Listening Events, you are invited to complete a short questionnaire, Share Your Thoughts. This is attached, and it can also be filled in online: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/synod2023/share-your-thoughts/> or hard copies can be found at the back of the church. Please ensure you return/submit the completed questionnaire by 30 November.

Your feedback, both from the Listening Meetings and the questionnaire, will be submitted to the diocese. They, in turn, will collect feedback from all parishes which will be put together in a document and sent to Rome for the synod taking place in October 2023.

**SICK AND RETIRED PRIEST'S COLLECTION** - Our second collection this weekend will be in support of the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support.

By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you will help ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners. The fund will be used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It could ensure a priest has regular visits from a Carer after undergoing surgery.

Rest assured, the Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will nevertheless be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their senior years.

If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag this weekend. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available at the back of the church as you enter. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. This reduces the risks to everyone of handling cash or touching the envelopes. If you are able, please consider filling out a standing order form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests.

Please be generous and remember our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill, in your prayers. Thank you.

**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 which will be updated every Friday. If you would like the names of your deceased relatives added, please do email your list of names to [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.

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

**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.

**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 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.

**CREATE A FABRIC CHRISTMAS DECORATION** - Come along to the Methodist Church in South Street on Saturday 20 November 9.30am-12noon No experience needed; all materials provided. Cost: £5.00 for Church Development Fund. Booking essential – for more info or to book, please contact Julie on 01279 659419

**THE PASSAGE** - The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 25 November on the theme Bohemian Rhapsody, featuring popular works by Dvořák, Mahler and Smetana. The performers include Andrei Ioniță, Cello; Anush Kovhannisyan, Soprano; Streetwise Opera; Toby Purser, Conductor; and the Orion Orchestra. Full details and booking at <https://passage.org.uk/night-under-the-stars-2021/> or telephone 020 75921856.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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](http://www.hertsdirect.org)

For more information, please see the school website: [www.stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk](http://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](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/>

**STORT VALLEY TRUST -SCHOOLS CHAPLAIN (PERMANENT)** An exciting new opportunity to work as a Schools Chaplain to primary & secondary schools for three days a week. This is a permanent post, starting in January 2022, and we hope in due course to be able to expand the role to five days a week.

**SCHOOLS SUPPORT WORKER (TEMPORARY)** We are also looking for someone to cover the maternity leave of our current Schools Support Worker for two days a week. This is expected to begin early in 2022. This role could be filled by the same person as the above and would potentially prepare the right candidate for a more full-time position.

You can find out more and/or download an application form by visiting <https://www.svst.org.uk/joinourteam>

**ARMISTICE DAY THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2021** - All are invited to attend at the War Memorial, Castle Gardens on 11 November at 11am for a two-minute silence and placing of tributes.

**THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10.50AM** - War Memorial in Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford. All are invited to attend and place tributes during the service.

Servicemen, veterans and local uniformed organisations are invited to participate in the parade. Assemble at 10am at the Link Road car park (CM23 2BA). The parade departs at 10.40am and marches to the War Memorial arriving prior to the service.

**There will be multiple road and car park closures to allow the parade to pass, please expect delays.**

**A road closure will be in effect from 10.30am – 11.30am on 14 November 2021 for the Remembrance Parade.** Ingress and egress from the car parks below will be impossible between 10.30am – 11.30am.

Charringtons, CM23 2ER,  
Causeway, CM23 2EN  
Link Road, CM23 2BA,  
Jackson Square, CM23 3XQ

Historically the Remembrance Sunday Service has attracted large numbers of attendants. Conscious of the possible risks from Coronavirus, the service has been re-orientated to allow for the maximum space the attendants. Tickets will not be required to attend the event and therefore we cannot guarantee how dense the crowds may be the day. This being the case please consider whether you would be comfortable in a crowd, should there be one. We encourage you to be mindful of others and keep your distance. The Town Council may at its absolute discretion on the day limit capacity should it be deemed necessary.

Please do not attend if you are showing any symptoms of Covid-19, if you have travelled abroad and need to isolate upon your return or you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Although not legally obligated to do so you may wear your face covering or face mask. Please scan the QR code to support the NHS Test and Trace.

Bishop's Stortford Remembrance Parade and Service are organised by Bishop's Stortford Town Council in partnership with Bishop's Stortford Royal British Legion.  
Contact [remembrance@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk](mailto:remembrance@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk) or call 01279 715000 for more information

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2021-2022.** Could those candidates who are part of this year's cohort please check your emails to ensure you have the login details for this Sunday's session. If you have not already received an email, please email Sophie urgently at: [bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bstortfordcatechist@rcdow.org.uk). The session starts promptly at 3.30pm

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - Big Thanks this week to Maureen and Yvonne for weeding Cardinal's walk again on a very chilly morning and to Joe who very kindly has provided us with a large back of cleaning wipes



for St Joseph's. Thank you also to the very kind person who anonymously arranged for a box of 'My Day by Day' books to be delivered to No 3. ready for Advent. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you all!

Please do remember to visit the Synod page, fill in an anonymous questionnaire or book a place at a listening event to share your thoughts. It really is very important that all views are heard.

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

email: [bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk)

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

Follow our Live streaming on [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)

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