

The Sunday Message on the Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday. I was at Boots opticians this morning (got there to find my appointment cancelled since the poor Optician was off sick), but, just as I was going out of the door the Maroon went off at the Police Station. I was so glad when the firing of the Maroon at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November was brought back a few years ago. It is utterly part of my childhood. We would be at home usually and would listen out for the bang. As soon as it was heard we would all stand upright with our hands at our sides in the living room of our house and wait the two minutes for the second firing.

It was very real to us since our grandfather who was then still alive, had fought in the First World War and had been taken prisoner of war. Our parents and my step father had all fought in the second world war as had all my aunts and uncles. My grandmother had run the mobile kitchen with the WVS that looked after the Canadian troops who were camped out nearby on Epsom Common. In that war my grandfather had been an ARP warden.

It was on visits to London that, as a schoolboy, you experienced that remembrance even more. Father worked at the Ministry of Defence in London and we would often go by bus down through Whitehall which meant passing the Cenotaph. As we did so, the men on the bus would momentarily raise their hats or caps, and we as schoolboys did the same. The Cenotaph had an abiding presence there, solitary, in the midst of Whitehall.

It is always difficult to allow oneself to be touched by an experience for which you have no human contact yourself. Younger people today are less likely to meet people who fought in WWII, or even who were children then, though it is not at all impossible. At the same time, younger people know much more about war than I did at their age, with all the media coverage that conflicts all over the world are given in our media here in the UK.

You see, nothing is the same as someone who “was there” telling you face to face in real time! And that, above all, is true of our Faith – it is when someone shares their faith with you that it becomes real, and through the Holy Spirit it is possible for that to happen. So, be open to listening, just like we are trying to do for the Synod, and who knows what gifts and experiences the spirit will give you.

*Fr Peter*

## **Parish Note Friday 12 November 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

Fri 11/12/2021 4:02 PM

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

Good afternoon

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

In preparation for Remembrance Sunday this weekend, I watched in awe as one of our very talented flower ladies 'Anne' prepared a floral tribute creatively and delicately adorned with barbed wire, wood and rose thorns with eight beautiful red poppies standing proud. Whilst gently placing the eight seated silhouettes in St Joseph's representing the WW1 'There but not there project' and the eight young men from the parish who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, I reflected back on the year passed since the last Remembrance Sunday. Back then, we had just entered a second lock down and we were no longer permitted to gather for public worship, Fr Antonio had just arrived from Borehamwood and daily Mass was still being celebrated, albeit behind closed doors. A trusty team of volunteer stewards and cleaners helped to ensure that we were able to keep our Churches open for private prayer and COVID safe and we had a huge following on our live stream with many wonderful new found 'online parishioners joining us from all over the globe', but it was a very uncertain time for everyone. Families were kept apart and in 'bubbles', friends and loved ones were sadly lost and there were many restrictions and difficulties encountered. We did however witness many positive Christian acts of humanity, generosity and kindness being shown in our community with a continuing strength of faith. Last year, the silhouettes were the only physical congregation permitted in the church and quietly represented us all. This year we are very blessed to have the freedom to physically come to church and once again sit amongst them to celebrate Mass together, giving thanks in prayer and remembering those who no longer sit on the pews alongside us but whose loving memory and spirit remain deep within ..

**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 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

**MUCH HADHAM REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** - There will be a short Ecumenical Remembrance Service at the War Memorial at the entrance to More Place in the main Street of Much Hadham, this coming Sunday, beginning at 10.30am. Fr Antonio will join in the leading of the prayers. Mass will follow in St Andrew's Church at 11.30am.

### **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.

**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.

**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 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.

**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 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.

**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.

**AFGHAN REFUGEE SUPPORT** - Support is still needed for those who have arrived from Afghanistan in recent months, particularly teaching English and finding accommodation, but also general befriending. Two leaflets have been produced, to explain the situation. One is asking for general help, with befriending, English teaching etc. The other is specifically for parishes where there might be accommodation available, and has a space for local contact details. [These leaflets can be found here.](#) The next **Network Meeting for those involved with Refugees and Migrants is on Thursday 9 December** and will focus on Community Sponsorship. All are welcome, even if your parish is not yet involved in any refugee project. If you want to know more about this in the meantime, please contact Rosa at Caritas Westminster [rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rosalewis@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 JOSEPH'S 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>

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2021-2022.** Thank you so much for attending our first session last Sunday. It was good to get started!

The session 1 webpage has now been updated, to include a few things to look at following our session. I'd encourage you to pay another visit, even if you have done so already!

<https://rcstortford.org.uk/sacraments/confirmation/conf2022/session-1/>

Our next session will be on Sunday 5th December in the Parish Hall. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

**SYCAMORE ADVENT COURSE -** The Dad's Group and the Catenians are delighted to invite you to a Sycamore Advent Course.

Sycamore is a fabulous resource produced by the Westminster Diocese. We will be facilitating an Advent journey over four sessions using Zoom:

30 Nov: The Gift of Faith - Hope

7 Dec: Finding True Freedom - Peace

14 Dec: The Community of the Church - Joy

21 Dec: The Light of Christ - Love

Each session consists of a brief welcome and introduction, three short video clips linked to the session theme and a chance for small group discussion on each clip.

**All sessions start at 7:30pm and will be complete by 9:00pm.**

We look forward to seeing you during Advent! Any questions, contact John Wright (07739 789169)

**Zoom Meeting Details:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576068767?pwd=SWVWURITmV2V3NWOXBuOGNNYXdYUT09>

**SICK AND RETIRED PRIEST COLLECTION -** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online through the Diocese website – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster. The care of priests in their old age, and at a time of illness, is a priority of the Church. It is a wonderful way for us to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

**YMCA -** are recruiting for a new full-time staff Chaplain to join us as part of the growing Christian Mission Team. This role will be key to growing the number of volunteer Chaplains across One YMCA as well as leading on the development of our [life-changing retreat programme](#).

**You can find more details, including salary, expectations and how to apply for the role [here](#).** Prayers for God's leading and guidance are always appreciated! Closing date is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November and interviews will be week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> November.



**WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY, 21 November 2021 (the Feast of Christ the King)** - National Youth Sunday is now World Youth Sunday and it is a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church in England and Wales along with the global Church. The theme this year is "Stand Up! I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen!" (Acts 26:16). CYMFed has produced resources for schools, parishes, families and individuals available at <https://worldyouthsunday.com> Please join us in prayers on that day.

**NATIONAL YOUTH FUN DAY, 19 November 2021** - In preparation to World Youth Sunday, everyone is invited to join in with National Youth Fun day, a live interactive day of quizzes, prayer, input and activities for schools and families, all live streamed on the CYMFed YouTube channel. Last year over 33,000 young people joined in nationwide. To participate please sign up at <https://worldyouthsunday.com/funday>

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SPEC RETREAT CENTRE IN PINNER** - Westminster Youth Ministry is recruiting a Senior Retreat Leader and two Retreat Leaders. These are live-out job roles crucial to restarting retreat programmes at SPEC Retreat Centre while emerging from the period of lock-downs. To be part of these exciting opportunities, and for more information and application form please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD CEMETERY** - Bishop's Stortford Town Council is currently consulting on its proposal to seek powers to enable the more extensive reuse of burial space than is currently possible, in order to ensure that space in the town centre cemeteries is available beyond the mid 2030s, and indeed for the foreseeable future. Comments must be received no later than 15th January 2022. A full explanation of the proposals and the rationale is set out in the document 'Bishop's Stortford Cemetery Act - Consultation - Final' attached.

**FAREWELL** - We send our best wishes and prayers to Tony Gomes this week as he sadly leaves the parish, having attended Mass at St Joseph's since 1986. We wish you every happiness in your new venture and hope that you will return to visit us.

**CAROL SINGING IN JACKSON SQUARE** - Friday 3rd December at the top of the traveller 4-6pm to spread the good news of Christmas and to raise money for the Winter Night Shelter.

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week we remember and give thanks for all past Priests and Parishioners from our three Churches, some whom we may never have met, but who lived their faith despite facing adversity and restrictions. We also remember past loved ones and friends, being grateful for the positive difference that they continue to make in our own lives today.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

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. Thank you to everyone who has submitted their views or booked onto a listening session so far.

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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