

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on The Second Sunday after the Nativity

John the Evangelist is symbolically portrayed as the eagle. Have you ever wondered why? Nobody could deny that his writing soars to great heights, but it could also be because the eagle is reputed to be the only creature that can look directly into the light of the sun without damaging its eyes. John, more than any scriptural writer, looks into the inner life of the Blessed Trinity. He knows that the human eye could not take the infinite grandeur and light of God ... *no one has ever seen God*. But the light of God is filtered down to our capacity in the flesh of Jesus. To see Jesus is to see God. There is no account of the Transfiguration in John's Gospel because, as far as John was concerned, every day he lived Jesus revealed the glory of God.

We can see John's great insights into the Trinity in this Sunday's Gospel, which is the famous prologue of John. As we begin a new year, it is fitting to see things from the beginning, which is what John describes in his prologue. The evangelist introduces Jesus to us in five stages. First, Jesus is the *pre-existing Word*. Genesis describes God as "saying" things into life. The Word of God is life-giving. "Through him, all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him." Second, Jesus is the *revealing Word*. The revelation of God reaches its climax in Jesus. "No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest the Father's heart who has made him known." Third, Jesus is the *Word made flesh*. God has spoken to us through the human life of Jesus. As Jesus said to Philip the Apostle, "To have seen me is to have seen the father." And fourth, Jesus is the *inviting Word*. His words and works invited people to believe in him and follow his way. Sadly, many rejected him but to all who did accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 31st December 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday after the Nativity

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

Fri 12/31/2021 5:19 PM

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

📎 1 attachments (25 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on The Second Sunday after the Nativity.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Second Sunday after the Nativity which can also be found on our website.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - to EVERYONE who helped in so many ways in our three Churches in the run up to and during the Christmas week and for the many kind messages, cards, gifts and prayers received.

HONOURING SUNDAY -During the pandemic, public worship was suspended for a time and there have been restrictions on parish life. As a result, people have been exploring other ways to practice their faith including Spiritual Communion via live streaming. As people begin returning to more regular patterns of parish life, the bishops of England and Wales have issued the following statement about the importance of honouring Sunday. <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/11/19/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>

An extract from the Bishop's Conference. *'The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.'*

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES - Please keep Sunday 9th Jan in your diary for the next session - whether it be in person or online, it will go ahead! And a reminder that the accompanying webpages will be updated by Wednesday next week, for you to check out in advance of the session.

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 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.

HOLY TRINITY WINTER NIGHT SHELTER - <https://www.htwinternightshelter.org/> If you would like to help raise funds towards the Holy Trinity Shelter, please donate online Sort code: 60-02-36 Account Number: 67759521 Thank you very much.

CAPITAL GRANTS -Bishop's Stortford Town Council is considering making available a fund to provide capital grants to local organisations which benefit the residents of the Town. The Council has already invited expressions of interest from sporting bodies, it is now inviting expressions from any organisation serving the town which may benefit from a capital grant. Although no firm decision has been made, it is likely that grants available under this fund will be in the range £10,000-£1,000,000 (Smaller grants are available under our ongoing Community Grants programme).

Further details and the form to use to express an interest are available on the Town Council grants page <https://www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk/grants>
Responses must be received no later than 15th January 2022.

PARISH OFFICE - Debbie will be away from the office from Monday 27 December to Monday 3rd January inclusive and back on Tuesday 4th January 9am-3pm. If you have an urgent enquiry during this time, please leave a message on the answerphone 01279 654063 as this will be checked daily by Fr Peter and Fr Antonio. All other enquiries and non-urgent requests will be dealt with immediately upon her return. Thank you.

As the New Year approaches, we keep in our thoughts and prayers those who have been bereaved, our absent friends and loved ones lost, those who are currently sick and those who care for them. We give thanks for the everlasting love, faithful friendship, strength, hope and the positivity that they continue to bring into our lives.

THE UNKNOWN

*I do not know what still awaits,
Or what the morrow brings;
But with the glad salute of faith,
I hail its open wings.*

*For this I know — that in my Lord
Shall all my needs be met;
And I can trust the heart of him
Who has not failed me yet..*

~ Author Unknown

I hope that you all have a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

See you in 2022!

Best wishes
Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

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

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