

Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Baptism of the Lord

In this Sunday's Gospel, Luke tells us that at Jesus' baptism, "the Holy Spirit descended on" him (3:22). On that day, Jesus received the Spirit in a new way—a gift from God that would empower him and set him on the path of ministry, service, and ultimately death and resurrection. Though Jesus was already fully God, the Spirit of God still came upon him.

Luke also describes how, as the Spirit descended on him, the Father called out, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you" (Luke 3:22). He spoke directly to Jesus. He told him how delighted he was in his Son's obedience, humility, and trust in him. Baptised, or immersed, in water, Jesus was also immersed in the Holy Spirit that day.

The same thing happens to us at our own baptism. When we are baptised, the Holy Spirit comes upon us, and God claims us as His beloved children as well. He enters into a new, unbreakable relationship with us, and we became a new creation in Christ (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1279).

But God isn't content with filling us with His Spirit just once. Again and again, God wants to tell us, "You are my beloved child. I love you. I am pleased to have you in my family." He wants to baptise us—immerse us—in His Spirit again and again so that we can be filled with His love and equipped for the work He has for us. Like Jesus, we are all born with a mission unique to each one of us and our baptism equips us for it.

It may have been many, many years ago that you were baptised, but God still wants to fill you with His Spirit. So don't be afraid to ask for more: more of his love, and more of his power in your life.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 7 January 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Baptism of the Lord

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

Fri 1/7/2022 3:59 PM

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

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Baptism of the Lord which can also be found on our website.

For the past few weeks, Fr Peter has been feeling under the weather, but has carried on with his many parish duties at what has been a very busy time, undertaking regular lateral flow tests as usual which have all thankfully proved negative. Yesterday Father's condition worsened and he was in a great deal of pain and discomfort, unable to even stand, which required medical intervention. Today, he has been diagnosed as having a kidney infection and is now on a strong course of antibiotics and confined to bed.

Bishop Paul McAleenan is aware of the situation and has decided that **for this weekend, regrettably, we will have to cancel the planned Mass at Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross, as there is no other supply Priest available.** Fr Antonio will celebrate the four Masses at St Joseph's, the RCIA Rite of welcome and Baptisms planned for Saturday and Sunday.

We sincerely apologise for any disappointment that this may cause you, but thank you for your understanding. Please do keep Fr Peter and Fr Antonio in your prayers at this time. We hope that Fr Peter will be on the mend soon.

Please do pass this message on to as many people at Holy Cross and Most Holy Redeemer known to you who may not subscribe to parish emails. Thank you very much.

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 - Our next Confirmation preparation session will be taking place on Sunday 9th January 2022 at 3.30pm sharp via Zoom. Please do read your emails for all the most up-to-date information regarding our next session, including the zoom meeting login details. Do ensure that you check your junk mail if you have not received the email to your inbox. Please also take some time to access our online resources, in preparation for the session, by visiting: www.rcstortford.org.uk/conf2022 and clicking on the session 3 button. Thank you.

RCIA RITE OF WELCOMING - will take place at the 6pm Mass this Saturday 8 January 2022 at St Joseph's. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our Candidates and their Sponsors along with our Catechists.

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.

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2022 - There will be a retiring collection after Mass for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children on the weekend 22/23 January 2022. Thank you for your support

PEACE SUNDAY - Next Sunday will be Peace Sunday with ' Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace' being the theme announced for World peace day. See www.paxchristi.org.uk

REQUIEM MASS FOR PATRICK LEWIS RIP - The Requiem Mass for Patrick Lewis RIP will take place on Monday 17 January 2022 at 12pm at St Joseph's followed by a burial in Bishop's Stortford Cemetery. All are welcome to attend. Please keep Patrick , his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - We welcome our RCIA Candidates Ana, Bisi, Dena, Jamie, Kyle, Liyuan and Sophie and their families, who will be participating in the Rite of Welcome at Mass this Saturday and thankyou to Fr Antonio, our Catechists, their Sponsors and those who have supported them on their faith journey so far.

JANUARY PRAYER INTENTION -For the first month of 2022, Pope Francis has asked Catholics to pray for those facing religious discrimination and persecution.

In a video appeal released Jan. 4, <https://twitter.com/i/status/1478380195480363008>

"Let us pray that those who suffer discrimination and suffer religious persecution may find in the societies in which they live the rights and dignity that comes from being brothers and sisters," he said.

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

Best wishes

Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

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Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth

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

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