

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This weekend's readings are fully packed with thoughts for us to take away and, indeed, act on!! So I am just going to pick on one of them today and it is the first reading which is from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah had quite a varied relationship with God, indeed at one point he told God that he had had enough and, frankly, told God to go and get stuffed, and yet, even as he spoke those words, he realised that he never wanted be separated from God.

On today's extract we are deeply reassured by God's words to Jeremiah at the beginning of their relationship: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." So deep and so intimate is our relationship with God that He knows our very essence, our very spirit, that which he formed out of the dust of the earth! But that knowledge by God brings responsibilities with it: "I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations", God says, not only to Jeremiah but, of course, to each of us also.

And, as we let that thought sink in and reassure ourselves that God knows and loves us completely, the reading from Jeremiah, jolts us out of our feeling of security: "So, now brace yourself for action."

I love that phrase; it is so immediate, also so encouraging since it presumes, quite rightly, that the good Lord has already given us everything that we need in order to accomplish his commands.

So, in a simple way this weekend, let us feel, together, these wonderful words from God addressed to each of us intimately.

Actually you can paraphrase them very simply:

I love you utterly
I know you completely
I have given you all you need
Now get on with it!!

Fr Peter

Parish Note Friday 28 January 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 1/28/2022 4:03 PM

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

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time which can also be found on our website. We are very pleased to welcome Fr Antonio back home to the parish this weekend following his short break.

Yesterday was the National Holocaust Memorial day to remember the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The theme this year was 'One day'. The 27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. Last night there was an online ceremony where many survivors of these atrocities bravely told their personal stories. At the end of the ceremony, households across the UK joined to light candles in solidarity, to remember those who were murdered for who they were and as a stand against prejudice and hatred today. #LightTheDarkness. If you missed the ceremony, please do visit the link below.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/ceremony>

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - This year Racial Justice Sunday is on 13th February. Our theme In the Image and Likeness of God celebrates presentations of the Holy Family from different cultures. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday about the importance of everyone being able to see themselves, their race, their culture, and their history in the Church's life. Please see our web site <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2022/01/26/racial-justice-sunday-2022/>

FAO CONFIRMATION GROUP 2021-2022 - Confirmation Responsibilities: Please do look out for an email from me about your confirmation responsibility for the year and do respond please! Don't forget to check your junk mail/spam folder, in case any important email has gone there and click to say that it is "from a trusted sender" or "not junk", so that future emails end up in your inbox! Our next session is on Sunday 6th February, starting promptly at 3.30pm. Many thanks Sophie Sullivan

VACANCY AT ST MARY'S FOR EXAM INVIGILATORS - <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-1554674?preview=1>

Closing date 2nd February, interviews 7th February

SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2022 - Thank you to everyone who kindly donated to the SPUC collection. £398.97 was raised.

SCRIPTURE FESTIVAL - From 3rd-5th February 2022, "The God who Speaks" and Westminster Diocese are teaming up to bring you a unique scripture festival, hosted at St Albans Cathedral. This is a beautiful opportunity to take a deeper dive into the wonder of the Bible and there'll be something for everyone to enjoy...So do put this in your diary <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2022/01/21/scripture-festival/>

HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE- Bishop's Stortford Town Council will be burying a time capsule and planting a tree in Monastery Park on 2 February 2022 and is calling for residents of Bishop's Stortford to supply a record of their memories of the Queen's 70-year reign to be included in the capsule. The entries can be written text or stories, drawings, photographs, newspaper clippings or small physical items etc. The Council will also include items representing Bishop's Stortford in 2022 such as a map, newspaper etc. All

entries can be dropped off to the Tourist Information Centre either in person, via post or electronically via tic@bishopsstortford.org until 4pm on 31 January 2022. Physical entries must be submitted with a donation form available from Town Council's website or at the Tourist Information Centre. For preservation all entries must be in polyethylene bags (a sandwich bag). Please not do include any entries with batteries, staples, paper clips, rubber bands, cling type films such as protective wrappers or any food products as this destroys preservation.

ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE SEPARATED AND DIVORCED -Beginning Experience Weekend - a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415; Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

RESTORED LIVES - 8-week online course from 24th January <https://www.restoredlives.org/go-on-a-course>
RL provide workshops to support for teenagers & young adults: 13-18 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm; 18 – 30 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, go to <https://www.restoredlives.org/yourdirection>

LONDON CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS -www.catholichistorywalks.com Please see attached a list of London Catholic History walks for February. The walks are led by Joanna Bogle, historian and author. No need to book, just turn up! We suggest a donation of £5.00p. Children should be accompanied by an adult with responsibility for them. Each Walk lasts 1-2 hours, but of course people can leave at any time, and we are always within reach of a bus, Tube or railway station. Wear suitable clothing and shoes – we walk whatever the weather! We are happy to organise specific walks for groups or schools. Contact us on catholichistorywalks@gmail.com

PARISHIONER OF THE WEEK - This week Joe has been a huge help in taking on some of the outstanding odd job tasks in the Church, putting up fire blankets, affixing signage boards and more! Thank you very much.

To finish this week, the National Holocaust memorial' One day' prayer..

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands. On this day, we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides. May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives. Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image. One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil. In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today. Amen.

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

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

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