

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

The readings for the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time tell of dramatic encounters with God experienced individually by Isaiah, Paul, and Peter. Isaiah “saw the Lord” in the Temple. Paul was on his way to arrest Christians when Jesus “appeared to me”. And Peter recognised the holiness of God in a miraculous catch of fish that he hauled in at Jesus’ word. All three realised that they were in the presence of the all-holy God, and each was cut to the heart.

When we are in the Lord’s presence, all masks fall off and we see ourselves in a genuine and profound way. We are a mixture of good and bad, but God is completely good, faithful, and pure. In the presence of such purity, all of our illusions of self-righteousness are shattered. Isaiah cried out, “Woe is me! . . . I am a man of unclean lips!”. Paul called himself “not fit to be called an apostle”. Peter pleaded, “Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man”. Like these men, when we realise how holy God is, we can’t help but see our unworthiness.

Most of us don’t have dramatic experiences like those described in this Sunday’s readings and it can be easy to lose sight of God’s holy presence in the busyness of the day. But God’s holiness should never be forgotten, and it should fill us with reverence and awe. God can make us see ourselves clearer any time: when we are praying, like Isaiah, or during our work, like Peter. He can even reveal himself when we resolve to do evil like Paul. When He does, we can either be grateful for His mercy or reject the grace He is offering us.

Every Sunday we pray, just before Holy Communion, “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” This Sunday, as we stand before our all-holy God who loves us, let’s speak those words with humble hearts. Let’s turn away from our sins and receive his forgiveness.

*Fr Antonio Pineda*

## Parish Note Friday 4 February 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Fri 2/4/2022 5:47 PM

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

 2 attachments (146 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx; The Holy Father's Message for World Day of the Sick 2022.pdf;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time which can also be found on our website.

I must admit to getting a teeny, tiny bit excited this morning when the heavy rain started to turn to fresh, sleety snow. I enjoyed watching a few big, fluffy, flakes fly past the office window, with the resident tree squirrels suddenly nowhere to be seen. The 'snow' however came and went as soon as it had arrived, leaving a beautiful blue sky. The Winter Olympics ceremony starts today, with some events having already taken place including the mixed doubles curling. We have a close family friend who is a curling instructor up in Lancashire, and having watched several matches, I think that our church cleaning teams with their superb, super quick slick mop action would be a fabulous contender to the sweepers and give the current world champions a really good run for their money!

Pope Francis recently focused on the power of sport to draw people together.

"Sport, with its universal language, can build bridges of friendship and solidarity between people of all cultures and religions," he said, which is why he appreciated the International Olympic Committee's decision in July to add another word to the Olympic motto.

"To the historic Olympic motto, 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' — Faster, Higher, Stronger — the International Olympic Committee has added the word 'Communitas,' which means, 'Together', because the Olympic Games can make a more fraternal world grow," the Pope said.

Looking at the Paralympics, the Pope said humanity "will win the most important medal together if the example of athletes with disabilities would help everyone overcome prejudices and fears and make our communities more welcoming and inclusive. This is the true gold medal!"

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK** - On Friday 11th February 2022 we will celebrate the World Day of the Sick. The Holy Father's message for the day is attached. Choosing as a theme, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" Pope Francis writes, 'Mercy is God's name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force'. Pope Francis's message contains rich and profound thoughts which will benefit everyone. It is Cardinal Vincent's hope that we will all read it in preparation for the World Day of the Sick and share it as widely as possible. The annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick will take place at 2pm on Saturday 12th February in Westminster Cathedral. The decision has been taken that this year the Sacrament of the Sick will not be administered.

We are pleased to let you know that the Mass will be livestreamed on the Cathedral's livestream, which can be accessed at [www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk) or

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx0dFI8GV5D9DSZo46ox6Q>



**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** - please don't forget about our meeting, this Sunday, 6th Feb, at 3.30pm. Make sure you have taken a few minutes to access this month's resources on our confirmation webpage for session 4 beforehand: [www.rcstortford.org.uk/conf2022](http://www.rcstortford.org.uk/conf2022)

**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/>

**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](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com).

**RESTORED LIVES** - 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>

**WALK AGAINST HUNGER THIS LENT FOR CAFOD** - Challenge yourself to walk 5K a day this lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time. Sign up at [www.walk.cafod.org.uk](http://www.walk.cafod.org.uk)

**LONDON CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS** -[www.catholichistorywalks.com](http://www.catholichistorywalks.com) . 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](mailto:catholichistorywalks@gmail.com)

**VACANCIES AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL** - Assistant Premises Manager – St Mary's Catholic School. Closing Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 10 a.m. Interviews w/c 1<sup>st</sup> March

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/assistant-premises-manager-school-estates-salary-h3-5-h4-9-pounds-19-312-pounds-20-903-fringe-pounds-626-depending-on-skills-and-experience-hertfordshire-1564473?preview=1>

Teacher of MFL – St Mary's Catholic School - Closing Date: 21st February 10 a.m. Interviews w/c 21st February

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/teacher-of-mfl-spanish-with-french-and-or-italian-full-time-ect-mps-ups-fringe-pounds-26-948-pounds-42-780-hertfordshire-1565807?preview=1>

**GOVERNOR VACANCIES AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL** - We have two Foundation Governor spaces on our Board. Foundation Governors are appointed by the Diocese and need to be practising Catholics. Only two Foundation Governors can have children in the school and we have those two. This means that our prospective new governors cannot have children at St. Joseph's now and are not likely to in the near future.

If you have some skills that you think could help our Governing Body and have the time to commit, then please contact me to discuss. Our Governing Body is hard working and everyone has to attend the Full Meetings held on Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30pm every half term (6 per year). If you join the Finance and Premises Committee then they also meet every half term on a different Monday evening. We have several other Committees that meet during the school day which you might join if you are available.



Every Governor appointment is for a period of four years but most of our Governors remain for more than one period of appointment. Documents are shared via a secure website called GovernorHub. You will be given a school e-mail address to use for all school related e-mails. Every Governor has to have a clear Enhanced DBS check (formerly known as CRB) that we will undertake and every Governor has to sign up to our Code of Conduct. The Code deals with how we must all behave and, importantly, confidentiality is crucial. Governors play a strategic role in the school: we are here to ensure clarity of vision and ethos; hold the Headteacher to account for educational and staff performance; oversee financial performance; and safeguarding. We are not here to get involved with the day to day running of the school. Training is provided and is continually necessary as things change in education frequently. We are part of a local network of schools that receives training in the evenings and you will be able to access on-line training.

If you have skills relating to health & safety, finance, HR or The Arts in particular then we would encourage you to put yourself forward. If you are interested and would like to discuss the matter further, then you can e-mail [sfitzgerald@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sfitzgerald@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk) and I can arrange to call you at a convenient time. I would be happy to show anyone interested around the school if Covid restrictions allow. Suzanne Fitzgerald Chair of Governors

**PORTLAND CHILD CONTACT CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT** We are a long-established supported Child Contact Centre based in Bishop's Stortford, seeking to add to the membership and skills base of our management team with enthusiastic volunteers. You would be expected to consider becoming a trustee of the Contact Centre in due course as we are applying for registered charity status, but this is not an essential requirement. If you have any of the following skills or experience in the following areas, we would love to hear from you: Charity Management, Committee Secretary experience, Grant funding/fundraising, Human Resources, IT and data management or Change management. For more information, an informal chat or an application form please contact the Co-ordinator, Lynne Ling, on 07766 627765 or [portlandccc@outlook.com](mailto:portlandccc@outlook.com) DEADLINE: 28 February 2022.

**MESSAGE OF THANKS** - Patrick and Pauline Haynes would like to thank everyone for their kind messages, cards and prayers following their recent health problems. It is lovely to see them both back at Mass!

**FOUND PROPERTY** - There are few items including part of a hearing aid, gloves, water containers and other assorted treasures that have been found after Mass at St Joseph's. They are situated in a box in the alcove area. If you have lost something, please do take a look.

**DONATION ENVELOPES** - If you no longer wish to donate to the Church using weekly donation envelopes, please would you kindly let the office know ASAP, particularly if you have changed to a standing order, so that we do not purchase another yearly set for you. Thank you.

**PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK** - This week, thank you to our Confirmation Candidates who have taken on a gardening task clearing the weeds along Cardinals Walk. It looks super - a great job done by all! Thank you also to Yvonne & Sophie for their assistance and guidance.

To finish this week,

During his General audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis provided a brief catechesis on St. Joseph and the communion of saints sharing a prayer to St. Joseph that he has recited daily for 40 years, and which he said came from a late 18th century prayer book of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary:

*"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. All my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. 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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*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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