

This Sunday we are asked by our Bishops to reflect and pray on Racial Justice in our world today.

Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark, who was one of our own Bishops here in Westminster Diocese has written about this Sunday:

“This coming Sunday, we’re going to be celebrating Racial Justice Sunday in the Catholic Church across England and Wales.

We might ponder, why do we do this? And I think there are two very simple reasons. The first is that we want to celebrate the great richness of culture, nationality, language – the great diversity that makes up the Catholic Church. Catholic means universal. It’s a Church for all people, for all nations across the world.

In any Catholic Church, you’ll find people from different parts of the world, and it reflects to us the great tapestry of people, of nationalities – just that great sense that we are together as one in Christ. That beautiful mosaic requires everyone to be part of it, so we’re celebrating, principally, something wonderful about the rich diversity of our humanity that is reflected beautifully in the Catholic Church universally internationally, but also in our parishes here in England and Wales.

I think there’s a second reason to why we need to mark this day, and that’s because, although we’ve made incredible strides forward in how we overcome things like racism and injustice, there are still things that need to be addressed. I met recently with some young people, and they shared with me some of the difficulties they experienced today – not 20 years ago, 100 years ago, but today – they face discrimination because of their heritage and their culture.

It’s very important that we as a Church take this opportunity to affirm the dignity of every person, the place of every person in the life of the Church, and that there is no place for racism, there is no place for racial injustice. We must speak as one people with one voice because we are one in Christ.

One of the challenges for us is to think not just about the ‘heart’ in this question of appreciating people of different cultures and nationalities, but also to think about the ‘mind’. In a sense, we could say, “yeah, we’ve got to love everyone.” I mean, that’s true. It comes from the Gospel. It’s the commandment of the Lord Jesus. But we also need not just to broaden our hearts, to love, but we need to broaden our minds to understand and to recognise that in the cultures of others, in the languages and traditions of others, there is something enormously enriching for the whole of the world.

What none of us should do, I think, is live with a very narrow focus, that the world is about ‘me’ and where I live, my town, my country – it’s not – the world is about all of us.”

Prayer

Catholics are encouraged to mark the day by praying the words of Pope Francis:

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.*

Parish Note Friday 11 February 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on Racial Justice Sunday

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

Fri 2/11/2022 2:00 PM

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

 1 attachments (15 KB)

R Justice Sunday.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Peter on Racial Justice Sunday which can also be found on our website.

Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed walking to and from work, partly in an attempt to keep up my fitness and partly through necessity, being without a car, as my beloved steed has gone up north for 8 weeks to help out a family member in need who is working in the middle of nowhere without any available public transport. It is quite amazing all of the lovely things that you notice as you wander by at a slightly slower pace. I have been leaving home at 7am and see the same dog walkers to say good morning to, the familiar cars driving by, the little moped with the humming exhaust and the jogger who I seem to pass at the same point, panting up the hill (him, not me!). With the birds singing, the red skies at sunrise and sunset have been quite spectacular too, invoking in my head the phrase about 'Shepherds warnings' and 'Sailors delights', albeit we are in a land locked county. Arriving at the Church, to let in the Stone strippers, Barry and Keith, preceded by lovely Monica who prepares the Altar for Father each day, starts the hive of activity, accompanied by the calming arrival of the beautiful crocus and delicate snowdrops in the Monastery gardens.. a really lovely way to start the day and a sight to behold..

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK - Today, Friday 11th February 2022 we celebrate the World Day of the Sick. 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 or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXx0dFI8GV5D9DSZo46ox6Q>

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. 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/>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY MARCH 4TH 2022 10.30am - 11.30am at MOST HOLY REDEEMER Catholic Church in Sawbridgeworth. Homemade cakes , tea / coffee served afterwards . ALL WELCOME. Colleen Lindley and Jean Roxby are "in charge " of organising the service this year. After 2 years of this service NOT happening , it would be fantastic if YOU could make it . They would really appreciate your support .

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are

celebrating an anniversary and would like to attend the Mass, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

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 - 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

LONDON CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS -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. 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

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

Full Time Teacher of English with Drama - Commencing September 2022 - Closing Date 28th February 10 a.m. Interviews w/c 28th February

<https://www.tes.com/jobs/vacancy/full-time-teacher-of-english-with-drama-required-from-september-2022-ect-mps-ups-fringe-pounds-26-948-pounds-42-780-hertfordshire-1568739?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 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

VACANCY ST MICHAELS CHURCH - FAMILIES MINISTER WANTED - to lead our work with children, young people and their families. The Salary would be £25,000 per annum (pro rata), although this might be negotiable.

<https://www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Groups/329840/Vacancies.aspx>

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 DEADLINE: 28 February 2022.

EXTENSION TO THE PLATINUM JUBILEE TIME CAPSULE DEADLINE - To honour HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 the Town Council will be burying a time capsule and planting a tree in Monastery Park. The Town Council 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 22 June 2022 (this deadline has been extended from 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. The time capsule will be buried and the tree will be planted on 2 July 2022 in Monastery Park, where there will be a ceremony with the Mayor. Members of the public are also invited to attend the ceremony and further details will be released soon.

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.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week, thank you to Colleen and Jean at Most Holy Redeemer who have been working behind the scenes to organise and prepare the 'World day of Prayer' on Friday 4th March at MHR 10.30-11.30am. Thank you Ladies. Thank you also to our fabulous Choir along with Duncan, who again have sung so beautifully at six funerals in recent weeks, kindly giving their time and sharing their talents, making such a difference and supporting families at their time of need, who have been very appreciative. Thank you very much.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! - We send our love and prayers to wish Fr Peter a very happy birthday for Tuesday 15th followed by Fr Antonio on Friday 18th February..

To finish this week, the prayer for Racial Sunday to mark the day with the words of Pope Francis:

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen*

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy half term 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

Parish Website: <https://www.rcstortford.org.uk>

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

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