

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Gospel tells us to "love our enemies" and "be as compassionate as your Father is compassionate". Two very difficult exhortations. How can we love someone who has hurt us, and how can we equal God in anything?

God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. His unconditional love means that his love is never less than 100 per cent even towards the least deserving. God does not wait for conditions to be right before loving people. And because we are made in the image of God, we are expected to reflect that divine love. Love is a fundamental attitude that does not wait for certain conditions to be right and will not let the wrongs of others pollute its flow of positive energy.

God understands that forgiveness of injustice, abuse or hurt is not easy. After suffering injustice or hurt, our option is not between remembering or forgetting, as if the memory can be simply blotted out. Rather, the important thing is how we remember. When someone hurts us, do we remember with negative thoughts and feelings or do we adopt, however difficult, a positive attitude that transcends the hurt? The Catechism of the Catholic Church advises: "It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offence, but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming hurt into intercession" (#2843). Hand it over to the Holy Spirit to raise our thoughts and feelings to a supernatural level! Instead of revenge, let us pray for a transformation.

To respond to wrongs with bitterness or revenge is to add to the ocean of evil. As Martin Luther King put it, the policy of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth would leave the world blind and toothless. Every sense of hatred that we exude makes the world more toxic. Never forget that often the one who appears unlovable is the one who most needs to be loved. Only goodness, trust and tenderness can turn something ugly into something beautiful. Transformation ... not revenge.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 18th February 2022 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time

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

Fri 2/18/2022 1:47 PM

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

 1 attachments (24 KB)

The Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time which can also be found on our website. Fr Antonio celebrates his birthday TODAY, so we wish him a very happy day filled with much love and many blessings.

Well, it's been a bit breezy to say the least, with 'Storm Eunice' now in full flow, having followed 'Storm Dudley'. There were several twigs and branches down on my walk to work this morning and a very large one on the driveway yesterday nearest to the parish centre, which I dragged onto to the Monastery garden when I arrived. The two large trees directly in front of the office window are thankfully, currently standing strong with their branches rhythmically dancing to the melodic, eerie sound of the rushing wind whistling and whooping through the window vents. Unfortunately, the wooden fence at the rear of the building backing onto the park land has not been so lucky and has been blown down. The Met Office Storm centre started naming the storms forecast to have an impact on the country often with a red or amber warning in 2015. A new list of names is issued and runs from each September to late August the following year. Members of the public are invited to suggest names for future storms submitted via an online form or an email to 'nameourstorms@metoffice.gov.uk'. 'Eunice' which apparently means 'Good Victory' was actually the name of St Timothy's Mother, being briefly mentioned in the Bible in the Second letter from St Paul to Timothy. Perhaps we should suggest a few more Biblical names for next year...

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF - Michael Giles, beloved husband of Maggie, who sadly died on Wednesday. *Eternal rest grant unto Michael O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

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.

REGULAR CONFESSION TIMES AND ADORATION RETURN TO ST JOSEPH'S - We are happy to announce that the sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in St Joseph's Church every Saturday from 5 March. Either Fr Peter or Fr Antonio will be available to hear Confessions between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. At the same time, there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration which is a precious opportunity for peace and reflection, and to pray before the Real Presence.

The weekly slots for Confessions and Adoration have been missing from our weekly church diary since the start of the pandemic. Since then, the sacrament of Reconciliation has been available by appointment only. The return of regular Confession times is particularly welcome during Lent when all Catholics are strongly encouraged to receive the sacrament as part of their preparation for Easter.

For more information on the sacrament of Reconciliation, including a guide on how to make a Confession, please visit our website: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/sacraments/reconciliation/>

VOLUNTEERING FAIR- Saturday 5 March, 12-2pm Westminster Cathedral Hall. Whether you want to try volunteering for the first time or are looking for a new role, come and find out what volunteering

opportunities are out there at the moment. Find out more here www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caritas-volunteering-fair-tickets-250053004267

VOLUNTEERING ONE TO ONE CONSULTATIONS - Mondays and Wednesdays throughout Lent. To help you 'spring into action' this Lent, the Caritas Volunteer Service offers a series of appointments for individual guidance for anyone interested in volunteering in London or Hertfordshire. You can choose between a 30 min meeting in person, a phone call or a 'Zoom' online meeting, and slots are available on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings throughout Lent.

Find out more and register here www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/volunteering-1-2-1-tickets-254712601247 or by calling 07738183833 or emailing cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

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) **before 31st March 2022 please.**

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE - We are pleased to advise you that Sophie Sullivan, our Catechetical Coordinator and her husband Mike shall be running the next two-part Baptism preparation course on the dates below via Zoom. The places will be limited to a maximum of 10 couples on each.

Monday 25th April and Monday 2nd May 2022 at 8pm - 9.15pm

If you would like to attend this course, please contact the parish office as soon as possible, so that we can send you an invitation in plenty of time. You are requested to attend the course prior to your Child being baptised. If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office so that we can send you one for completion so that we have your details on file.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL OPEN MORNING- Every September up to six choristers join WCCS in Year 4. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in a world-class choir, and to join a thriving, inclusive independent school for boys, age 4 – 13. All choristers receive generous scholarships, supplemented by means-tested bursaries worth up to 100% of fees, where needed. The school is holding an open morning for prospective chorister families on Sunday 27th February 10am to 1pm. They invite applications from boys currently in Year 2 or Year 3. Interested parents should contact Lucy Auger to register by calling 020 77998 9081 or emailing lauger@choirschool.com.

ART CLASSES - Held in Spring & Autumn terms in a local village hall with tuition by a local artist. Wednesdays from 12.45pm - 3.45pm. Friendly atmosphere, reasonable rates. For more information; contact BS 652060.

THE PASSAGE - a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets at www.passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert or telephone 020 75921856

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 still a few items including, 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.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - Nursery Admissions 2022-2023

Applications are now welcome from families whose child reaches their third birthday between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 for our new nursery class starting in September 2022. We offer three forms of provision each day- a core offer of 15 hours, extended offer of 30 hours and extended plus offer of 34 hours per week. We are offering open mornings to parents who would like to view our nursery. The dates can be found on our website. To book a space please call the office on 01279 652576

For more details and to access a copy of the application form, please see the school website

[St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - Nursery Admissions 2022-2023 \(stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk\)](http://stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk)

On-time applications close on Friday 18th March 2022.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE - Applicants for St Joseph's School for **NURSERY** places in 2022/23 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 18/3/2022.

ADVANCED NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF THE PARISH OFFICE - The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 7th March to Friday 18th March 2022 inclusive as Debbie goes on her deferred 2020 holiday. 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.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - Thank you to everyone who last Saturday evening after the 6pm Mass helped to move the 100 chairs that were in St Josephs to the WCC. Thank you also to our young Parishioners who this week during their half term have helped to clean the Church with their parents.

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy week, stay safe and are not too badly affected by the storm.

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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