

The Carpenter Newsletter and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

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

Good afternoon

Please find attached this week's edition of 'The Carpenter' newsletter and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

You will remember that late last year, Fr Peter and Fr Antonio led "Listening Events" to listen to what you had to say about the Church. The events were part of the worldwide synod process launched by Pope Francis to invite us to listen deeply to one another and to discern what God is saying to the Church about how we "journey together". Those not able to come to the events were invited to fill in a questionnaire instead.

The feedback received from both the Listening Events and questionnaire was submitted to the diocese. The diocese, in turn, gathered all the responses from parishes and our bishops (Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Bishop John Sherrington, Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop Paul McAleenan) wrote a report based on the parish responses. The report has been submitted to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to contribute to a national report finalised in June and sent to the Synod Office in the Vatican in July. The reports from this global exercise will then form the basis of preparatory documents for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023.

The report covers feedback on the impact of the pandemic, the role of priests, transparency and inclusion, women in the Church, teaching of the Catholic faith and welcome towards LGBTQ+, divorced and remarried people

Fr Antonio was pleased to have been asked by the bishops to turn the report into an attractive and easy-to-read booklet. The report is attached and you can also download it on our website and the Diocese of Westminster website.

There will be Mass celebrated on Easter Monday at 10am instead of 9.30am, being the bank holiday, however from Tuesday 19th April - Friday 22nd April inclusive, there will be NO Mass celebrated at St Joseph's. The Church will be open for private prayer though each day between 9am-3pm.

Fr Peter and Fr Antonio, send their sincere thanks to 'everyone' who has generously given their time and helped over this Easter period. We are blessed to have so many willing volunteers in our parish from those who clean the Churches, read, sing, play music, serve, create beautiful flower arrangements, teach others, run groups, organise, visit the sick, look after the repositories, hand out hymn books, sit on committees, collect money and count money, the list is endless...!

Finally, please keep in your thoughts and prayers the elect as they celebrate the next stage of their spiritual journey at the Easter Vigil at St Joseph's. Please see below the link to their rehearsal with pictures of them plus their catechists and sponsors.

Link: <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2022/04/13/the-elect-rehearse-for-the-easter-vigil/>

With best wishes to you for a very happy, healthy and blessed Easter.

Debbie



**The Catholic Parish
of Bishop's Stortford**

the CARPENTER

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3 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ND

Parish Office: Monday—Friday 9am to 3pm—Administrator, Mrs Debbie Jackson

Catechetical Co-ordinator— Mrs Sophie Sullivan

www.rcstortford.org.uk

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

17 April 2022

Our priests are:

Fr Peter Harris (*Parish Priest*)

Fr Antonio Pineda (*Asst Priest*)

PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Can You Help?

**A network of support is needed for
Ukrainian Refugees for when they
arrive in our town**

The idea is to build a team of volunteers who will offer to help with tasks such as opening a bank account, registering with a GP, finding a school place for a child, helping with English, learning how to negotiate our bus service etc, and, also supporting the kind Hosts who have opened up their homes, so that they do not feel isolated. The whole support network will keep everybody connected and safe. If you would like to assist, please email your name, how you wish to help and your mobile telephone no. to mionegoldspink@hotmail.com. Please confirm your permission to share your contact details in order to form a WhatsApp group to keep connected & updated with other volunteers.

Come and join us at
St Joseph's for ADORATION of the
Blessed Sacrament and take the
opportunity to celebrate the

Sacrament of
RECONCILIATION
each Saturday
with one of our
priests
between
3pm and 4pm



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NO MASS - There will be NO Mass celebrated at St Joseph's from Tuesday 19 April - Friday 22 April but the Church will be open for daily private prayer between 9am—3pm

PERMANENT DIACONATE - 'COME AND SEE'- The Permanent Deacon is a man who serves the Church through ministry of Word, Altar and Charity, under the direction of the Bishop and Priest. For men who may be interested in learning more about the Permanent Diaconate, they are invited to a 'Come & See' Morning on Saturday 23rd April, 10am-12noon at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, Westminster SW1P 1QN. <https://rcdow.org.uk/vocations/permanent-diaconate/>

ONLINE MINI-RETREAT FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL— 23rd April 10am—1pm on Zoom. Through worship at Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prophetic reflection, praise and an inspiring talk, you will discover how the Lord's Prayer guides and empowers us to fulfil God's will: Speakers are Geoff & Gina Poulter, leaders of training courses and conferences on healing, prophecy and discipleship. Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAPR2022 or go to www.altonrenewal.com/programme.html for the zoom link.

SHORT PLAY—Saturday 7th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Charis Centre, Churches Together is hosting a performance of 'My Place' by Riding Lights Theatre Company in partnership with Home for Good, a Christian charity which encourages and supports individuals, families and churches to provide safe and loving homes for children in the care system, through fostering and adoption. Tickets £10 (£8 conc) from Riding Lights 01904 613000 or online at ridinglights.org/my-place.

REQUIEM MASS IN WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL- SATURDAY 28 MAY AT 12.30PM
celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols for those priests who died during the coronavirus lockdown when churches were closed and during the time of restricted numbers at funerals in churches. These measures impacted the funerals of 19 priests including that of our former parish priest, Canon Eddie Matthews RIP. The Mass will be live streamed: <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk>

Please remember to complete a Parish Census Form for your household— Thank you very much!
OR preferably you can do it online via our website, it only takes a few minutes..
www.rcstortford.org.uk/register

Catholic Listeners

A new confidential listening helpline will launch this month. Catholic Listeners, Diocese of Westminster, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The helpline is all about listening to others, listening to those who might have become isolated due to the pandemic. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, we have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. Sometimes just communicating with someone who listens and understands can help clarify a way forward. Simply talking about a problem can ease a burden. We aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. Contact Ade at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com or 0800 4480704

*We wish everyone a very
Blessed and Joyous Easter!*



Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

On Holy Tuesday, I attended the Journey to Jerusalem event at Holy Cross in Much Hadham. The event was an opportunity for children to learn about the meaning of the events of the Holy Week: Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, Jesus' death on Good Friday and His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

To explain the significance of Easter Sunday to the children, I asked them to think back to Christmas Day just a few months ago. Christmas was when we the whole world, it seemed, celebrated the birth of Christ by giving each other presents, with special family gatherings, and so on. With so much festivity and merriment, you could be forgiven for thinking that Christmas Day was the most important day of the year.

Not so, I told the children. I told them that, in fact, Easter Sunday is the most important day in the Christian calendar. And this is for four main reasons:

1. The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14). "Jesus is Lord, He is risen" (Rom 10:9), was the central theme of the kerygma (or "preaching"), of the Apostles
2. Easter Sunday is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies..." (Jn 11:25-26).
3. Easter is a feast that gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It also gives us the strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears.
4. Easter gives meaning to our prayers: It supports our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in and around us, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven, hearing our prayers, and so gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayers.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter season, for He is risen!

Fr Antonio Pineda