

## Message for the 5th Sunday of Lent

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Dear Parishioners,

A lockdown brings opportunities and struggles. You may have caught up on your much-needed sleep, devised a possible DIY plan, or make a schedule to establish a rhythm. You might also be giving thanks to God for schools – an opportunity to take a breather away from home.

But the walls are starting to cave in. There are no more box sets to watch. Are you doing your DIY or following the schedule? Although connected, we find ourselves alone. We discover that we have limits.

As we hear the news, the Coronavirus teaches us how incapable we are to stop it. The virus has, however, teaches another lesson – how to live in the Spirit of Christ. The Second Reading for this Sunday says: 'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.' (Rm 8:11)

Although we are witnesses so much death, we are responding with life. This week over 500,000 volunteers offer to help the most vulnerable. We are receiving many emails thanking us for the possibility to celebrate the sacraments via the live streaming. There have been invitations of encouragement – from praying together around the world to even clapping in support of the NHS last Thursday evening. We can consider this as a rise of our human consideration for others, but, as Christians, it is an offer of hope.

In these times of crisis, let us realise that the Spirit of the Risen Christ, whom we are waiting for in a few weeks' time, calls us to remember our brevity of life, but more importantly, the call to live life to its fulness by offering it for our neighbour.

In Christ,

*Fr. Carlos*

## A note from the Parish Office Friday 27th March 2020

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

Fri 3/27/2020 11:59 AM

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

 1 attachments (13 KB)

Fr Carlos Message 5th Sunday of Lent.docx;

Good morning

I hope that you are all keeping well.

Please find attached 'Fr Carlos' Message for this weekend being the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It has also been added to our web site under the 'News' section.

Please do remember to look at our web site for up to date information and resources or follow our Twitter feed @rcstortford.

I have added all of the Sunday Mass sheets for the next few weeks under the 'Weekend Mass Sheet' page on the web site so that we are all able to follow the readings whilst watching the Live stream. The 'Sunday Word' part of the sheet is on a separate titled page.

The Children's sheets have been uploaded also on the 'Resources for our Younger Parishioners' page.

We are daily having 1000 + viewers to our Live stream with even more 'On line Parishioners' at the weekend which is wonderful. Thank you all for your continued positive comments. I am working my way through them all and will upload these to the web site on the feedback page.

Today ( Friday 27th) we are invited to join Pope Francis in prayer at 6pm Rome time which will be broadcast live to the world by Vatican media and can be followed via the Vatican web site on <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

This Sunday 29th March will be the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. Please see the attached link to join in prayers at home. <https://www.behold2020.com/take-part>

I will 'officially' be back at work from Monday following my 'holiday' albeit I shall be working from home at the current time.

Please keep in your prayers Fr Peter and Fr Carlos and especially all of those in our parish who are currently sick, isolated or caring for others.

Thank you also to our Eucharistic Ministers and those who continue to support our sick and housebound parishioners with friendship and support via the telephone. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you.

God bless

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](mailto:bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk)*

*<http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/>*

*Follow our Live streaming on [www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)*

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