

Dear Parishioners, (far and wide!),

Here we are, heading towards the end of a second week of “lock down” as they call it... This has probably meant a whole lot of different things for each of us. First, we needed to make an effort to hear what was being said. Next, we needed to try our best to understand it, and, lastly, we were faced with making choices about our everyday life in the light of what the government said.

Have you perhaps heard that sort of list before ? Hear, understand, act.... Yes ! it is how the Holy Spirit brings God into our lives through the presence of Jesus. Perhaps in our lives of faith it is better known by the words, “See, Judge, Act.” Those three words are the best way to understand our calling as Catholic Christians at this time as much as at any other. We can use those words at the moment in our life at home, whether we live on our own or with others; in keeping in telephone contact with our family who are elsewhere; and keeping in touch with our neighbours and community.

It seems strange to me at the moment not getting all the Palm fronds ready and planning the Holy Week liturgies. They will all be very simple this year, but they will be streamed. To help you at home there is a special video on how to make a Palm Cross out of paper – see how well you remember your “Blue Peter” days and join in.

Keep your Spirits up and if you feel them drooping ask the Holy Spirit to give you a boost – remember, God always hears our prayers in little things as in great. And, if you feel stuck in your time of private prayer, use a well know prayer instead – as they used to say on Blue Peter. ‘here’s one I prepared earlier....!’

With love and prayers,
Fr Peter

A Rather Long.. Note from the Parish Office

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

Fri 4/3/2020 4:28 PM

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

 1 attachments (19 KB)

Fr P 04 04 40.docx;

Good afternoon

I hope that you are all keeping well.

Please find attached this week's Sunday message written by Fr Peter. I have also uploaded this to our web site.

This week as per the official guidance, I have been working hard from home. I am very fortunate in that I have a small garden office with access to the internet, the only distraction being a couple of heavy footed pigeons who seem to like to tap dance on the roof every now and again!

Live stream -Thank you very much for all of your wonderful email comments on the Live streaming of our Mass which have been forwarded to Fr Peter and Fr Carlos and also added to our Livestream feedback page. The quality of the service with our new camera over the past week had been a little frustrating with the picture freezing at certain points, but it is now seems to be working really well. The Church TV company in Ireland had to increase the size of the server to accommodate the number of viewers logging in, which on Monday alone was 928 on line viewers at one point and 5,523 on Sunday. With us all 'refreshing' our screens, the system was a little overloaded.

The Foodbank in Bishop's Stortford - have been working in partnership with Operation Community and Holy Trinity Church to enable all food parcels to be delivered to people in need at their home address. As a result, clients will no longer have to come to the premises, removing the need for any face to face contact. If people wish to donate food the best way of doing this is by putting items into the boxes provided near the check-outs of the main supermarket when they are doing their essential shopping: Tesco at Lancaster Way, Sainsburys (at either the Jackson Square or Thorley stores) or Waitrose.

They are also able to accept items at the Food Bank at the Methodist Church in South Street (next to Tesco Express) Bishop's Stortford on Monday and Tuesday only (between 10.00am and 2.00pm). To avoid unnecessary contact, a trolley has been left in the doorway at the side entrance of the church, which is accessed by a path at the side of the church. If people wish to help by donating money, they can do so by using the Just Giving Page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/bishopstortfordfoodbank>.

You can also send a cheque, made out to Bishops Stortford Food Bank, to their office at the Methodist Church, 34b South Street, Bishops Stortford CM23 3AZ or make a BACS payment direct to their bank.

If you would like to help at the Food Bank, sorting and packing boxes of food and other essential items for those in need, then please email bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com. You will be required to fill in an application form and provide two references.

If you have your own transport and are able to help with the delivery of boxes in and around Bishop's Stortford on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday please prepare the following documents and send them direct to Canon Mandy Brown at Holy Trinity Church at ht.nightshelter@outlook.com

- Copy of your driving licence
- A colour photo for your ID card

· Evidence of a DBS (Data and Barring Service check – paper copy or digital reference number) OR a certificate from the free online Basic Safeguarding Course run by the Church of England

Journey to Jerusalem - As the Children's event due to be held at Holy Cross this weekend regrettably had to be cancelled, the ' Journey to Jerusalem' programme with colouring pictures to print has been posted on our web site. Thank you to Juan Salinas for sending this in.

Palm Sunday Crosses - This Sunday will be Palm Sunday. Unfortunately, as we are not permitted access to our Churches at this time, the Palm Crosses that had been ordered for everyone will remain in the Church. Therefore to keep the Children busy, a short 'Blue Peter style' video on how to make a Palm Cross out of paper or card has been added to our web site and Twitter feed. It is very easy to do and can be made out of almost anything 'paper like' that you have to hand.

Mass sheets and Resources - These have all been uploaded to our web site for the next few weeks. If there is anything else that you wish to see on there please just let me know and I'll do my best!

On line donations - Thank you very much to those Parishioners who have kindly sent donations to the Church online via their own Banks and via our web site. It is much appreciated. If you would like to donate online, our details are as follows:

Sort Code: 40 05 20

Account Number: 31094629

Account Name: WRCDT Bishop's Stortford

Much Hadham Health Centre - We were contacted by Dr Mihaly Saary to advise us that their practice has uploaded lots of recipes under the Healthy Eating section of their web site which Parishioners might find useful at this time. <https://www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk/index.aspx>

Much Hadham Health Centre - GP Surgery Website. All about your doctors surgery, the opening times, making appointments, ordering your repeats, health information and more

Much Hadham Health Centre The Health Centre, Ash Meadow, Much Hadham, Herts SG10 6DE, GP Surgery Website. All about your doctors surgery, the opening times, making appointments, ordering your repeats, health information and more

www.muchhadhamhealthcentre.co.uk

St Mary's School - are advertising a vacancy for an Admissions Officer. Please see www.stmarys.net for further details. Mr Celano, the Headteacher has posted a lovely end of term Easter message on the school web site, which we have re-posted on our web site. Please continue to keep all of the Pupils, Teachers and Staff in your prayers. Thank you.

St Lawrence's Community in Zambia - We were sent some really good news this week that following the donation from the Parish, the frame for the water tower had been installed, all by hand! We were sent a video from Sr Angela which I have uploaded to the news section of our web site. It is quite astonishing to watch.

Canon Eddie Matthews RIP - We have been inundated with many lovely emails and memories relating to Canon Eddie since he sadly passed away on Wednesday, from Parishioners both near and

far. We will keep you updated with news on a future date / time for a Memorial Mass for him , when we are able to do so. Please keep Canon Eddie, his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Once again ,if you do not wish to receive these emails, please just reply back with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject box and I shall remove you from the list.

Thank you very much for your continued support

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

God bless

Debbie

(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

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

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

THIS EMAIL AND ANY ATTACHED FILES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY BE LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the addressee, any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution or other dissemination or use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete this email. Email transmission, including any attachments, cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error free, as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The recipient must check emails, including attachment, for viruses and the Diocese cannot accept responsibility if the recipient fails to do so. The sender, therefore, does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message which arise as a result of email transmission. If verification is required please request a hard copy version.

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?