

Message for Easter Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

I think, for me, this ancient homily by an unknown author best describes Easter:

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son ... I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated. For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven ... The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

Easter would entail some holiday time, going away to an interesting destination or to visit one's family. However, taking into account the circumstances that we find ourselves in, let us contemplate on the message of Easter: Christ, our Saviour, is risen to destroy our slavery to sin, bringing us into the freedom of life.

Rejoice! We are in the great feast!

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!

Alleluia

Have a Happy and Holy Easter.

Fr. Carlos

An even longer... note from the Parish Office Thursday 9th April 2020

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

Thu 4/9/2020 5:49 PM

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

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Message for Easter Sunday Fr Carlos.docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are all keeping well.

Please find attached this Sunday's Easter message from Fr. Carlos which has been added to our website.

This week we have sadly heard the news that four of our well loved Parishioners have died. We keep in our thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Johanna Christina Maria Robertson, Montemayor Salmeron, Peter Diment and Ted Bubien.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

Holy Week - All of the details of our services for Holy week have been uploaded to several places on the web site accompanied by the readings of the day, so should hopefully be very easy to find.

Web site - On our web site are the usual Mass sheets for our younger Parishioners, 'Look' and 'Ichthus' for you to download, as well as a you tube link and Stations of the Cross sheet kindly created by Isobel Wright . Monica Jacobs from the Senior Parish Art Group has shared a beautiful painting which she has created and this too has also been uploaded.

There is another link for the Wintershall Passion play which will be streamed via their facebook link having been filmed last year in London. There are various video messages on there also including a Holy week message from Pope Francis and a live stream link for Exposition of the Shroud of Turin, as well as a virtual tour of the Westminster Rosary Shrine and lots more!

Easter Photos - Looking through my computer, I came across some lovely photographs taken in 2017 courtesy of our Parishioners showing the wonderful Easter floral displays in our Churches. I thought it would nice to revisit them and so have added to our web site too.

Live stream - As soon as I reported last week that the Live stream was working really well, at the weekend, it decided to do otherwise(!) We have been in constant daily contact with the engineers in Ireland who we now have on speed dial and have been working really hard to test everything and reset the system. So fingers crossed!!

On Sunday alone we had 8,553 visits to the livestream! On the Church TV website under FAQ, there is section which explains why sometimes the streaming can stop and start, which includes a test for your own Broadband speed and Browser settings also. It might be worth a visit just to double check that your own computer is able to cope. The recordings of our Mass all play beautifully and it seems that other online viewers from across the globe have a marvellous reception. We anticipate that the number of online visitors will increase again, so please bear with us. We are fortunate to have the system and are blessed that everyone wants to join us on our 'virtual pews'.

Livestream Feedback - This has been wonderful! Thank you. We have had so many lovely messages. One email was from an American family of 5 who are quarantined in Madrid altogether unable to get home who discovered us and now follow daily. They forwarded details of our Guardian Angel prayer back to a friend who is an author in the USA and it has been added to her book entitled 'Stations of the Cross with our Sister St Therese'.

Most Holy Redeemer - For those Parishioners who live in the Sawbridgeworth area, you may already be aware that here is a Corona Virus Action group involving the Council and Churches offering help and support to residents who may feel isolated or lonely. Please see the web site for full details. The Help line is 07549 006777 (8am -10pm)

Most Holy Redeemer Virtual Choir - Whilst completely isolated and using only mobile telephones, the Choir from Most Holy Redeemer organised by Clare Hodgson and assisted by a willing team have created a beautiful version of Tozer 'Regina Coeli'. At the time of writing I am still trying to upload it to the web site with the help of the Diocese Communications department, but it will be worth waiting for. It really is beautiful, so thank you for sharing! Failing this, I will email it to everyone separately after the Great Vigil of Easter.

Twitter - I am still getting used to 'tweeting' and am hoping that Pope Francis may eventually follow us'. We now have 101 Followers, so thank you for liking our posts and 're-tweeting' also!

Donations- Thank you to everyone for your kind donations. At a time when the Church would usually be extremely full of Parishioners the 'loose plate' Easter collection will be missed this year. If you would like to donate 'online' our details are below or there is a donate page on our web site. Every penny counts! Thank you.

Sort Code: 40 05 20

Account Number: 31094629

Account Name: WRCDT Bishop's Stortford

Please do continue to keep our fabulous Priests, Fr Peter and Fr Carlos in your prayers as they continue to support and guide us all at this difficult time and also those members of our parish who are currently suffering ill health or loneliness through isolation and those who support them.

A message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols -

'On Maundy Thursday after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, during a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, I ask you to pray for your priests, who give their lives to the Lord for his service, that they will be faithful and generous'

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and Holy Easter.

Thank you.

God bless

Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

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

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