

2nd Sunday of Easter

The First Reading this Sunday is from the Acts of the Apostles, 2:42-47. Part of it reads:

“The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.”

These words have really struck home to me this last week. It’s because, as I look around me and listen to so many of you through your emails or hearing your voices on the telephone, I realise that what is said in the Acts of the Apostles is exactly what is happening around me now.

People tell me that they have spent time reading, for some a luxury they don’t often find time for. Some of that reading has been Scripture and so they have found themselves listening to the *“teaching of the Apostles”*. The same has been so for those ‘coming’ to Mass through the streaming where this week our readings have been following the life of the followers of Jesus straight after the resurrection. The *“brotherhood”* has been showing itself in so many ways as so many people have been finding within themselves a great desire to be of support to others, and I know of so many examples of this amongst our own parishioners.

The figures that we daily receive of those who have looked at our streaming are testimony of so many who have ‘come’ to Mass each day – a great joy for all of us to be able to be *“faithful to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* as much as is possible for us.

And ...the result of this has undoubtedly been that the daily ‘miracles’ that we see around us and the ‘signs’ which we witness through so many amazing ‘apostles’ are making a *“deep impression on everyone”*.

Thanks be to God !

A note from the Parish Office Friday 17th April 2020

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

Fri 4/17/2020 5:55 PM

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

 1 attachments (13 KB)

2nd Sunday of Easter.docx;

Good afternoon

I hope that you are all keeping well and that you had a wonderful Easter weekend, albeit, I am sure a very rather unusual one.

Have you listened to Most Holy Redeemers Virtual Choir rendition of "Regina Coeli" yet? If not, it is on our web site and on our Twitter link @rcstortford. It really is very good!

Please find attached this week's Sunday message from Fr Peter for this, the Second Sunday of Easter which is also on our web site.

Working remotely from my temporary 'Garden Parish Office' and being separated from the rest of my household, who are all also working from home in various rooms, is going very well. The challenge this week has been keeping out my inquisitive cat who at the spritely age of 18 years will try to sneak in at every available opportunity through any open window. He has however deterred the noisy tap dancing pigeons from last week which is a bonus!

Livestream - Particularly over the Easter Triduum, we were anxious that the live stream would work properly. With only a couple of minor blips, thankfully, it worked well. From Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday inclusive we had a combined 15,393 viewers visit which is astounding!

Livestream Feedback emails - Thank you to everyone who continues to send in positive feedback emails for Fr Peter and Fr Carlos. The messages and good wishes that have been received from near and far are very much appreciated. Several comments have been added to our website. They continue to work tirelessly and do a brilliant job so, Thank you!

Canon Eddie Matthews RIP - We have been advised that Bishop John Sherrington will lead a funeral service for Canon Eddie on 24th April 2020, outside of the parish. As the current COVID-19 restrictions, which affect those who are bereaved, remain in place, please continue to keep Canon Eddie, his family and friends in your prayers. We hope to hold a memorial Mass for Canon Eddie at St Joseph's when able to do so in the future.

We also keep in our thoughts and prayers the families of Montemayor Salmeron, Johanna Christina Maria Robertson, Peter Diment, Ted Bubien and Magda Davis as they make plans for the funerals of their loved ones at this difficult time, as well as those in our parish who are sick and those who care for them.

Mass Intentions - When Most Holy Redeemer and Holy Cross Churches closed, all of the scheduled Mass intentions for those Churches were transferred to St Joseph's. We are doing our best to accommodate them all and have kept a running list of those still to be celebrated so that every intention is honoured. Any new Mass intention requests specifically to be celebrated at St Joseph's are able to be booked from July onwards. We are sorry for any disappointment or upset that this may have caused and thank you for your patience and understanding. If you wish for your loved

one's anniversary to be remembered in our weekend Bidding prayers, please do let us know and this will be arranged.

Prayer list for those who are sick in the parish - We are sometimes asked to add Parishioners to the list of those who are sick, so that prayers can be offered for them. When we receive such a well intended request we do have to ensure that we first have the express permission of the person who is sick or from their next of kin if they are unable to do so. This is to ensure that confidentiality and privacy is maintained and respected as sometimes those who are sick may not actually wish others to know or be contacted by meaningful well wishers.

On line donations - Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated their weekly and Easter offering on line. A small number of Parishioners who use Nat West or Lloyds Bank have reported that they have experienced difficulty when typing in our Account name ' WRCDT Bishop's Stortford'. Unfortunately we do not know why this should be, as our account name is correctly linked to our account number as it appears on our bank statements. It has been reported to the Diocese, in case there is anything else that can be done from 'their end'.

There is usually an 'over ride' facility when entering the name of a payee via on line banking, which may assist. It is imperative however that you have first doubled checked that the Sort code and Account number has been correctly entered should you decide to try this route. One suggestion would be to perhaps ' test donate' a small sum such as 1p in the first instance and we can then advise you if we have received it safely. If you wish to try this, please let me know in advance, so that we can monitor the account accordingly and report back to you.

Our Sort Code is: 40 05 20
Account Number: 31094629
Account Name: WRCDT Bishop's Stortford

Alternatively, you may wish to choose to donate via our web site where the Diocese have set up a ' Donate page', the link of which is below. Whichever way you choose to kindly donate - Thank you very much! New donation envelopes are patiently waiting, safely in the Sacristy, for when we will eventually be permitted access to the Church at some stage hopefully in the future.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/donate/>

Donate to our Parish | Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

Donate to our Parish. Thank you for visiting this page. With no Sunday Mass collections, your giving matters now more than ever. There are various ways to contribute to the parish. If you do online banking, the quickest and most direct way to donate is with a bank transfer. If you can, please also consider a monthly gift by Standing Order.

parish.rcdow.org.uk

Mental Health - At a time where some people may be feeling extremely anxious or worried, we have added a page on our web site for the ' Catholic Mental Health Project'. This has links to various organisations and helplines which may be useful.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford/support-and-helplines/>

FREE Online Safeguard Training - Whilst you are at home, with no where else to go.. now is the perfect time to take an online course, at your own pace to learn more about Safeguarding! Edu Care's training programmes can help individuals familiarise themselves with safeguarding matters,

helping to create a nurturing and safer environment. The course includes the Child Exploitation & Online Safety programme which helps us to better understand how children and young people use technology and the associated risks. This is particularly valid at the current time as our children use the internet.

All you need to do to access the free course is to email your name, your email address, the name of your parish and your position (whether you be a Eucharistic Minister, Catechist, Parent, Volunteer or a Parishioner) to the Diocese at safeguardingadmin@rcdow.org.uk

On receipt of your email the safeguarding administrator will register your email address with Edu Care. You will then receive a Welcome email from Edu Care where you will set your password and be able to access the course at your own pace, saving your progress as you go. It really is a good course and you will learn a lot.

Parishioners with no access to the internet or livestream - We are very mindful that some of our Parishioners do not have access to technology and are unable to watch the live stream, look at the website or receive emails. Please be assured that Fr Peter, Fr Carlos, our Eucharistic Ministers and I have been calling regularly to keep everyone updated and ensure that everyone is well. We have all had some lovely chats! I am also aware that several of our Parishioners are keeping in contact with each other too via the telephone and letters, having their own additional support network in place which is great.

Parishioner of the week award! - If there were such an award, there would be several worthy winners, but this week mention has to go to the fabulous 'Doreen Brown for sending me ' Doreen's lockdown survival guide' and making me smile, which with Doreen's permission, I would like to share with you... Doreen, who many of you will know rarely sits still and is on the go all of the time, she helps at the foodbank, is one our weekly collection counters, helps Jill run the Wednesday Group, visits those who are sick, knits for charities and so much more! Lockdown for Doreen, has meant that she has had to be extra organised and creative and this is her daily survival guide lockdown routine (as well as saying her prayers!)

Doreen's Daily Lockdown Survival Guide Routine

Each day... to do..

1 Task

1 De-clutter session

1 Reading session

1 Craft session

1 Cooking session using anything left in the fridge and freezer to create a new recipe or odd meal to enjoy!

1 TV programme to watch

1 Cat nap!

1 Treat (cake, chocolate or wine!)

1 Phone call to a family or friend

1 Laugh and if all is well and done, be in bed for 11pm

If anyone else any ideas or suggestions that they wish to share, please do email me and I will very happy to pass them on to everyone..

The final word of this 'note' which seems to get longer each week (apologies!) I will leave to lovely Ann Wocjik from our talented St Joseph's Choir, who kindly sent in the below version of St Teresa of Avila's prayer.

"Let nothing disturb thee. Let nothing afright thee . All things pass , God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for . He who has God finds he lacks nothing . God alone suffices"

Thank you very much

May the celebration of Easter continue to bring you all great hope, good health and much happiness!

God bless

Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)

Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford

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

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