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## Message for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Dear Parishioners,

In the experience of lockdown, receiving bad news often leads to a loss of hope – as if there is nowhere to continue.

But a time of apparent disaster can also become one of unity and joy. Even though we are bombarded with so much bad news, we hear of the many ways people are helping each other – whether it be through doing someone's shopping, telephone calls, challenges and fundraisers, taking time out of one's Thursday to remember those who are at the frontline, etc. It is good to know that the media also gives us these snippets of news as well.

Fr. Peter and I have also been blessed with your great generosity of your words of encouragement via post, email, or telephone. We have also been blessed to sample your newly found calling as bakers – which is probably why exercise is still a valid reason to leave your home, I guess.

But the reason we do this is also because we have discovered what it means to be loved, even in the most stressing of moments. And that self-renouncing love comes from Christ.

As we continue in the Easter season, let us not forget that this love encourages us to be servants of the other, whether it be on the frontline, on the queue to the market, or even in the mandated life of lockdown, where we can connect through technology, but much more in our prayers.

Pray for those who are risking their lives every day to make this world better. Pray for those who have given their lives already. Pray more for those who have lost hope. As mentioned in one of this week's *Daily Mirror* headlines: The Glimmer of Light is approaching.

Fr. Carlos

## A Note from the Parish Office 24th April 2020 and Sunday Message from Fr Carlos

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

Fri 4/24/2020 4:33 PM

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

 1 attachments (14 KB)

Message for the Third Sunday of Easter (Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr).docx;

Good afternoon everyone

I hope that you are well.

Please find attached this Sunday's message from Fr Carlos which can also be found on our web site.

Well, another busy week has flown by working in my temporary parish office. The view definitely isn't as good as that overlooking the beautiful Monastery gardens and I actually really miss running up and down the stairs to answer the WCC door bell, which, if I am honest, was probably my main form of weekly exercise I'm ashamed to say!

This week I became a 9am Sunday Mass 'Zoom-er'. I don't know if this is an officially recognised word or not for a person that joins the new Video platform 'Zoom' ( I used to use Skype) . However, having looked up the word 'Zoomer' in an on line dictionary - it stated '*a young adult old enough to clash with the Tik-Tok generation, but not old enough to be a 90's kid*' - so, sadly, it seems, I'm not!

Any way, John Wright from St Joseph's, being really great with all things technical, organised a trial 9am Sunday Zoom Mass get together last weekend along with our Music group and it was lovely to actually see everyone! John shared his computer screen of the Livestream Mass and we all joined in with the sign of peace, hymns and prayers, so this Sunday, everyone is invited!

We will also ' stay after Mass' for ' Tea, coffee and a virtual catch up'. Below is the meeting link invitation and how it will work... so please join us, there are safeguarding and etiquette rules in place..

**Zoom-** The 9am Music Group bring you hymns via Zoom before and after the parish Live Streaming of Mass.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686911110>

Meeting ID: 896 8691 1110

### How it works:

- \* Different members of the 9am Music Group will lead different hymns before and after Mass.
- \* We will start the Meeting about 8:40am to allow people to join and get technology working.
- \* Our hymns will start about 8:50am. At the end of Mass we will play a Communion and Exit Hymn.
- \* We ask everyone to stay muted during the Mass otherwise your audio will affect others ability to hear the Priest.
- \* Feel free to join with or without video! **But if you are on video, we ask that you and anyone seen be appropriately dressed and also have an appropriate screen name displayed.**
- \* After the hymns at the end of Mass we will unmute everyone so you can say hello and have a chat about your week.

Thanks everyone and we hope you enjoy a brief sense of community while things are in lock-down.

God bless x  
9am Music Group

**The Feast day of St George, Patron of England**- Fr Carlos went to great efforts on Thursday to proudly hang flags from the top window of Number 3 to celebrate St George's Day - see our Twitter @rcstortford or our website, if you missed it!

**Anniversaries** -This week, a few of our Parishioners celebrate very special anniversaries. Jack and Patricia Nash celebrate their 70th Wedding anniversary this Sunday. Celebrating their 60th Wedding anniversary on 2nd April was Michael and Grace Duhig, closely followed by Helen and Mick Ahuja's 40th anniversary on 12th April. We send you all our heartfelt prayers and wish all of you continued good health, much love and happiness.

**Job Vacancy** - St Mary's Catholic School have a vacancy for an English Teacher. More information can be found on their web site [www.stmarys.net](http://www.stmarys.net) The closing date is 6 May 2020.

**Mass on Thursdays at 7pm** - Every Thursday evening, at 7pm, a Bishop, in turn, will celebrate Mass in his Cathedral, live streamed, for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. The first one was celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols yesterday in Westminster Cathedral via [www.churchservices.tv/Westminster](http://www.churchservices.tv/Westminster)

The dates, locations and live-streaming information (link in the name of the cathedral) for the next five Masses have also been announced. They are as follows:

30 April: Bishop Richard Moth, [Arundel Cathedral](#)

7 May: Bishop Marcus Stock, [Leeds Cathedral](#)

14 May: Bishop Robert Byrne CO, [Newcastle Cathedral](#)

21 May: Bishop Mark Davies, [Shrewsbury Cathedral](#)

28 May: Bishop Terence Draine, [Middlesbrough Cathedral](#)

**Volunteers Needed at the YMCA** - As well as needing monetary donations, the YMCA also require volunteers to help at their Hostels. You would be supporting Residents with meals, phone support and helping to ensure buildings are safe and clean. You would be working alongside and be supported by Accommodation Staff as part of the team. Training and inductions are provided. Click [here](#) to register and find out more.

**Across** - Lisa O' Connor will be raising money for Across, this Sunday 26th April on the 2.6 Challenge by undertaking a 26 hour sponsored silence. Please help Lisa to raise funds for Across [.https://t.co/yHMBXvDfEs](https://t.co/yHMBXvDfEs)

**Free Prayer Booklet to download** - 'Strong in the Face of Tribulation', contains prayers and Pope Francis' Homilies. It is free to download via a link on our web site.

**Artwork and Good wishes from Manchester** - We received a lovely email accompanied by paintings and cartoons from Christopher Basson, a talented 81 year old gentleman from Manchester as he came across our Livestream link for Mass this week. He kindly allowed us to share his artwork on our web site and so became a ' guest visiting Artist' on our SPA ( Senior Parish Art ) Club web page.

**Stella Maris( Apostleship of the Sea) Chaplains** - Another email from a Live stream Viewer was from a Chaplain from the Apostleship of the Sea. This is a Catholic Charity which supports seafarers worldwide, providing practical and pastoral support. They do a huge amount of good work and like all charities require support. Please take some time to have a look at their informative web site. There are lots of ways to help them including knitting items such as hats and gloves ( the patterns are on their web site), sending a card to a seafarer and perhaps leaving a gift in your will. <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/>

'**The Chosen**' - Mike and Sophie Sullivan ( past Parishioners now living in Zimbabwe, also on Lockdown) wrote with a free recommendation for a series called 'The Chosen . See what they said..

*'We have a recommendation for you and are telling everyone cos it's so good!*

*A friend recently introduced us to season 1 of a series called "The Chosen" - a non-Hollywood production - giving a new and fresh take on the Gospels, as seen through the imagined backstories of the people he met. Anyway, it's really cleverly done and we loved it!! We are sending you the link below, so you too can enjoy it.*

<https://studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen>

*Either click on the link or find it on Youtube - "The chosen episode 1" and you'll discover the rest from there - episodes are free!*

*You could also show it to your older children - I reckon 12yrs + - it's not scary at all (except for a more intense scene of Mary Magdalene's exorcism in ep 1), but may go over the heads of younger than that. Otherwise, it's a show with real heart - do check it out!!'*

**Priest Training Fund Collection** - This Sunday, we would normally announce that next week we would be having a retiring collection for the Priest Training Fund in Church, so instead, I have attached the Diocesan on line donation link below if you are please able to help. Every penny counts!

On average it costs £25,000 a year per man, per year of training – that's about £150,000 to form and educate a new priest, who makes a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church. The Priest Training Fund also supports our priests in their ongoing education and formation after ordination. <https://rcdow.org.uk/donate/priests-training-fund/>

Thank you to everyone who continues to send in lovely feedback emails, they are great and much appreciated by Fr Peter and Fr Carlos. We also loved the pictures of pets and videos sent in this week too. Thank you.

We especially keep in our thoughts and prayers those in our parish who are isolated in care homes, along with their loved ones, family and friends who are unable to visit them. We give thanks also for the teams of dedicated Carers, Cooks and Cleaners who care for them, as they would, members of their own family, particularly at this time.

**Parishioner of the week who made us smile award** - Again, very difficult to choose a recipient of this prestigious title... as we have heard so many very good things across the parish of countless Parishioners helping to care for others; to name only a few.. from Juan Salinas at Holy Cross who has been instrumental in coordinating a very efficient system partnering those who need assistance with shopping and prescriptions with a buddy who facilitates this, to Marie Rhodes who keeps contact with everyone and has kindly been distributing publications each week to help share with members of the parish RCIA group and printing information for those without a computer. Thank you very much to you all!

The winner, however, this week is someone, who every single day of the week ( when not in lock down) attends the Church to voluntarily clean, perform Sacristan duties, arranges our Housebound Eucharistic Minister rota, visits our Parishioners who are sick and so much more! This lady has also been contacting Parishioners regularly by telephone and this week sent in a fabulous 'Lock down news video' with brilliant commentary, all whilst riding an exercise bike! We particularly loved her tip of using an emergency ration of vodka for disinfectant. It also made us smile that she had experimented with 'microwaving' a pile of letters delivered by the postman in order to sanitise them, resulting in slightly singed crispy mail ( Warning - Don't try this at home!). She shall remain nameless as she would not wish to be famed.. but .. you know who you are.. and we love you for it!

As always, Fr Peter and Fr Carlos continue to keep everyone in their thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you all every good wish for a happy and healthy week ahead and I look forward to hopefully catching up with some of you at the 9am Sunday Zoom meeting!

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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