

# Fifth Sunday of Easter Message from Fr Peter

Thought of the week  
Friday 8th May, 2020

As I write this we are beginning the celebrations of VE Day +75. Thinking about it I do have memories of my mother and father and my stepfather telling me about it all. My mother still had a newspaper announcing the good news, though I fear I have no idea where it has got to today. But she also, like many, had a brother in law who was in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, indeed, on the Burma railway and I remember her telling me that this fact coloured the events of VE Day because they were still so fearful and ignorant of what had happened to him. They had to wait a little while till VJ Day and then, eventually, news came that he was alive and, in due course, returned home to them all.

Thinking of this it has struck me how often our happiness seems to us to be "incomplete". There is always one thing more we need to happen before we can relax and get on with our lives. Even in these days of "Lockdown" I find myself thinking, "oh, and I have still got to do that", though you might think that over the last six weeks I would have managed to clear all the "In" tray !

No, there is always more to be done, in our daily lives, our emotional lives AND in our spiritual lives. You might think, like me, that with all this "time on our hands" one thing that would have definitely improved would be our prayer lives. But I wonder if that is so – I still find myself sometimes struggling to find time to pray – ridiculous, isn't it ?!

The key, of course, to such things is our own will power and the priorities that we need to make in our daily lives. The habit of "business" dies hard I'm afraid... We've been asked over recent weeks to face up to the realities of our lives in this time of Covid19 – let's also face up to the reality that we do have time for God at the moment and ask him for His Grace to help us to do something about it !!

*Fr Peter*

## A Note from the Office - Thursday 7th May 2020

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

Thu 5/7/2020 5:58 PM

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

 1 attachments (70 KB)

Zoom Mass Hymns 10th May 2020.docx;

Good afternoon

I hope that you are all well.

The Sunday Message from Fr Peter for this, the fifth Sunday of Easter will be following in a separate email and will be uploaded to the website when available.

This week seems to have flown by very quickly, even more so with the slightly confusing substitution of a 'Bank holiday Monday' on a Friday(!) and I've been surrounded by further inventive creativity, none of my own making, I wish to add. This has ranged from eating a rather dubious looking 'student paella' that one of my children lovingly concocted with foodstuffs found lurking at the back of a cupboard, to hearing how Fr Peter skilfully used tea plates and saucers as perfect bedding plant templates when planning his beautiful garden borders at number 3, to the unfortunate episode starring the cat, who, with absolute wilfulness and precision timing, upstaged my husband as he joined an important scheduled video conference call with his big boss. But, it's been a good week and I continue to feel very thankful indeed and extremely blessed.. albeit I fear a promotion in the family, now won't be on the cards anytime soon!

**Zoom-** It was lovely to see everyone again last Sunday for the 9am Mass via our Zoom session courtesy of John Wright and the Music group. We were also joined by parishioners from St Theresa's and accompanied by Fr Carlos who was sporting a rather impressive 'lockdown moustache'. This Sunday, we will 'Zoom' again with the possibility that Fr Peter may hopefully join us. Sister Ruth in Canada, at 3am in the morning, had also attempted to join, but had issues with her internet connection, so she sends everyone in the parish her love and prayers. The invitation and Zoom code is below and the hymns are also attached to this email.

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

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 be appropriately dressed!
- \* 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



Topic: Sunday 9am Mass via Zoom during lock-down

Time: May 10, 2020 08:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88157964349>

Meeting ID: 881 5796 4349

**VE Day** -To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day this Friday, the Cardinal will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass in Westminster Cathedral, which will be livestreamed. There will be a two-minutes' silence at 11am, followed directly by Mass. All are welcome to follow the livestream at any one of the following:

Church services TV directly: <https://www.churchservices.tv/westminster>

Westminster Cathedral home page: <http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/>

Diocesan website (where the livestream will be available from 10.45am): <https://rcdow.org.uk/>

As mentioned last week, there is an 'online' virtual event organised by Bishop's Stortford Town Council which you may be interested in.

**Underfloor Heating** - Fr Peter announced at Mass today that we have now received the listed building planning permission required to start the work on our church underfloor heating project which includes the removal of the floor in St Joseph's. As the Church is currently closed with no immediate prospect of opening, negotiations are under way with a view to hopefully starting the project a little earlier than scheduled previously. This should help to minimise the disruption experienced for when we are eventually granted access.

**Senior Parish Art Group** - Pope Francis' prayer today was especially for 'Artists, who make us understand what beauty is'. He also said, 'The Gospel can not be understood without beauty'. Please take a look at the Senior Parish Art Group page on our web site as this has been updated with 'lockdown homework' set by Monica Jacobs, who kindly emailed in an array of stunning pieces created by members of the group.

**Additional Resources** - Redemptorist Publications has granted free access to some additional material which I have added to the web site. This includes the 'Wednesday word' for younger Parishioners and the Sunday Plus and the Sunday Bulletin papers.

**Confirmation Candidates** - Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the young men and women of our parish who were due to be confirmed this evening, along with their parents and those who have helped to prepare them. The Confirmation Mass, along with the Mass for our First Holy Communion Children has been postponed and will now be later in the year, at a date to be confirmed.

**Thursday Mass** - The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

This will take place **every Thursday at 7pm**.- tonight the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Marcus Stock from Leeds Cathedral via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-xVdN6rMCG0sSgxk8Rulo>

**Marriage Week 2020** -11th – 17th May is the week that is nationally set aside to celebrate commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage. The theme this year is "*The Forever Conversation*," recognising the need for continual open communication to enable a marriage to be long lasting. Marriage Encounter is working in partnership with Marriage Week UK to promote events and celebrate marriage. For more information see <https://marriage-week.org.uk/>

**Parishioners of the Past -The Men behind the Silhouettes** - I have now updated the web page with the information that we have to date on those men remembered in our parish from WW1. We have identified all of them using various ancestry and military web sites and have also traced living relatives for some. I will continue to research and keep the page updated with any new developments.

**Parishioners of the week award**- This gets harder each week, as we have the best parish with the most amazing parishioners! This a shared award for kindness, generosity, positivity and determination ! The winners are as follows, Bridie Andrews, who will be 90 years old in a few months time. Bridie is an absolute delight, a spirited lady with the most beautiful blue eyes and smile. She advised me that during lockdown she was still watching Mass via her iPad and keeping busy by continuing to walk 4000 steps a day (!), closely followed by her good friend and close neighbour, the wonderful Mary Clark, who has been helping Bridie. Bridie then told me how kind and lovely Clare Sims had been to her and that she had been getting her shopping regularly. Next comes, Pauline and Patrick Haynes, a marvellous couple who are also very generous with their time, being Eucharistic ministers ,as well as faithful, supportive and caring friends to many. Despite being on lockdown they keep me updated with lovely emails including the marriage events in the Diocese ( hence the post above) having themselves guided many a couple over the years on pre marriage courses. Finally for this week, Alan and Claire Hodgson, a very fun, talented and generous couple with an equally very talented and wonderful family who have kindly been ' looking after' Most Holy Redeemer during lockdown, acting as a focal point, assisting neighbours and this week delivered several bunches of spring flowers to residents in Sawbridgeworth on their daily walk. Thank you all very much!

As always, Fr Peter and Fr Carlos send you all their continued good wishes, love and prayers.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and holy week and a great' Bank Holiday Friday!'

Best wishes  
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](http://www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford)